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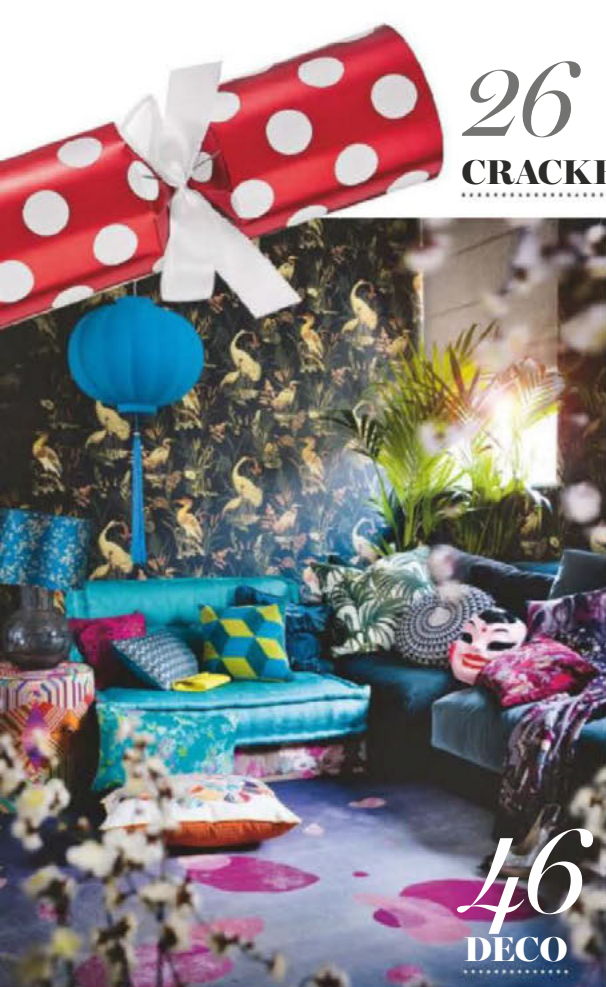
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**Julien Fernandez**  
*Photographer, Vive la Différence!*  
**WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP?** Empathy, joy and simplicity.  
**IF YOU WERE A SHADE OF PAINT, WHAT**

**COLOUR WOULD YOU BE?** I love Jack Black by Little Greene – the best interior light comes from black shades.  
**WHO IS YOUR DESIGN HERO AND WHY?** Hans Wegner – his chairs are timeless.  
**WHAT'S THE MOST UNUSUAL SHOOT YOU'VE DONE?** The home of an artist that looked like a set in a Tim Burton movie. It was a secret treasure hidden in a city.  
**WHAT ONE PIECE WOULD YOU PUT IN YOUR DREAM HOME?** The Paulistano armchair by Paulo Mendes da Rocha.



**Amandine Berthon**  
*Stylist, Blue Swoon*  
**WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP?** Efficient, gentle and with a sense of self-mockery.  
**IF YOU WERE A SHADE**

**OF PAINT, WHAT COLOUR WOULD YOU BE?** Probably Breakfast Room Green by Farrow & Ball. I love its name and subtle sweetness – it evokes the romantic interior of a British castle.  
**WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU DID TO YOUR HOUSE?** I framed a poster of Marcello Mastroianni – who was my teenage crush – from the last Cannes festival, which my brother brought back for me.  
**WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST EXTRAVAGANCE?** I got my driving licence in 1998 and have never driven since.



**Amanda Koster**  
*Stylist, Shanghai Surprise*  
**WHICH THREE WORDS SUM YOU UP?** Creative, supportive and silly.  
**IF YOU WERE A SHADE OF PAINT, WHAT**

**COLOUR WOULD YOU BE?** Down Pipe by Farrow & Ball. It helps every other colour shine.  
**WHO IS YOUR DESIGN HERO?** Photographer Tim Walker – his work made my style make more sense to me.  
**WHAT'S THE MOST UNUSUAL SHOOT YOU'VE DONE?** I sprayed a caravan gold, wallpapered the interior and hung a chandelier, then drove it to a field in Oxfordshire for a shoot.  
**WHAT WAS THE FIRST PIECE OF FURNITURE YOU BOUGHT?** A Lloyd Loom laundry basket from a junk shop while at uni. I still have it.



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## *the first sign of Christmas*

in my home is when I start burning my favourite eucalyptus scented candle in late November. The indulgent, woody aroma instantly puts me in a festive mood and marks the beginning of all those lovely rituals – hanging up the Advent calendar, choosing the tree, finding stocking fillers and all the other prep that happens in the run-up to the big day.

Where I still need inspiration, however, is in those little details – the perfect crackers, the clever wrapping ideas, even the show-stopping tree topper after last year's fairy got smashed when our tree fell over!

Luckily, this issue of **Livingetc** is packed with tips to help turn Christmas from the ordinary into the extraordinary. Check out our edit of this year's most stylish trees and dees on page 55 and wrapping and gift-display ideas on page 60. And don't forget to dress those awkward spaces that could do with a sprinkle of festive love – from an empty fireplace to a narrow hall, there's plenty of inspiration on page 113.

This time of year is traditionally all about children, so for those of you looking for new ways to update your kids' rooms and play areas, turn to page 119 and get ready to start 2015 in style!

*Suzanne*

Suzanne Imre, EDITOR

**ps** Check out our fabulous Christmas subscription offer on page 10 – it makes the perfect gift for a stylish loved one. Or why not treat yourself? Go on, you deserve it!



*This month, we're spreading good cheer with...* **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** Photograph of The Conran Shop's Xmas press show; Christmas **wrapping paper**, £10 for four rolls, BHS; and silver **ribbon**, £4 per 5m, Bowtique at Hobbycraft; gold **ribbon**, £1.75 per 3m; and **craft paper**, £2.50 per 3m roll, Paperchase; spider web **decoration**, £7.99, The Chelsea Gardener; Nutcracker Theatre **card**, £18, Smythson; Loft GWF-2607.23 **cotton/silk-mix** in Chartreuse, £115 per m, Groundworks at Lee Joffa; and Mrs Muse **place-card holder**, £98 for a set of four, Jonathan Adler



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*Suzanne*

Suzanne Imre, EDITOR

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# AGENDA

Shopping . News . People . Design . Events . Treats

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## TA-DÄR!

Evoke Twenties glamour with Där Lighting's gold-leaf-finished Atticus pendant. Inspired by vintage designs, its palm tree fronds will bring the golden age of Hollywood to your space. £598.80 ([darlighting.co.uk](http://darlighting.co.uk))



## White out

More is more when it comes to a show-stopping dining table. Mix up multiples of The White Company's Snowflake paper decorations, silver concertina Balls and paper Bell decorations for a winter wonderland that'll give Narnia a run for its money. From £12 for a set of three decorations ([thewhitecompany.com](http://thewhitecompany.com))



Livingetc  
SWATCH  
WATCH

Textured velvets are a hot trend for upholstery this season, but we think we've found the next big craze – relief velvets. First we spotted (yes, pun intended) Casadeco's Luxury Dots LXY 18364207 polyacrylic-mix in Fraise, *right*, with its large polka-dot imprints (£60.25 per m, [casadeco.fr](http://casadeco.fr)), followed by Lelièvre's sumptuous Typo M1 0723-02 Trevira CS fabric in Canard, *left*, embossed with a geometric repeat (£111 per m, [lelievre.eu](http://lelievre.eu)). We'd mix and match them on cushions, pouffes and ottomans to double their effect.

## Let's go Dutch

Crafted from antique brass, gilded steel and backed with super-soft vellum, Julian Chichester's Mondrian bookcase takes the renowned painter's grid-like compositions to another level. £6,600 ([julianchichester.com](http://julianchichester.com))





## The big sleep

An investment purchase you'll feel the benefits of night after night, Gingerlily's pure mulberry silk linens are kind to skin and hair (bye-bye bad hair days), hypoallergenic and adjust to body temperature. Latest shades Charcoal and Pink channel film-noir glamour and, like Bogart and Bacall, work even better together. *From £65 for a standard pillowcase to £359 for a king-size duvet cover (gingerlily.co.uk)*



## MOBILE HOME

Handmade in Denmark since 1953, Flensted's mobiles are design classics. This stylish Pixies in the Forest model is a fun alternative decoration for glitter-phobics. *£18.50 (driftliving.co.uk)*



Livingetc  
LOVES

## KNIT WIT

We've always thought Boden should extend its joyful fashion designs to the realm of homeware and this season, it has. The capsule collection of blankets, cushions, tea towels and knitted-wool hot-water bottles, *left*, is a real treat. We can't wait to see what else lurks up its sleeve. *£35 (boden.co.uk)*



## CURTAIN CALL

After a card that doubles as a gift for that stationery-obsessed someone in your life? Smythson's 3-D Nutcracker Theatre card is beautiful enough to bring out every year. *£18 (smythson.com)*



## Going with the grain

Smooth and handsome, dark timber is making a comeback in interiors. Branch out into the trend with Habitat's sophisticated Coralie walnut and metal coffee table. *£195 (habitat.co.uk)*





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## FANCY DRESS

Porada's Sam valet stand will make your daily dressing ritual fine and dandy. Crafted from canaletta walnut, its mirror and coin tray, coat hanger and trouser rail elements are moveable and interchangeable. Suits you! From £2,402 ([porada.it](http://porada.it))



## Self-expression

Take a peek inside the mind of artist Grayson Perry – these ceramic side plates feature details from his biographical etching, *A Map of Days*. £30 each ([npg.org.uk/shop](http://npg.org.uk/shop))

## STAR QUALITY

It's the crowning glory on your Christmas tree, so make sure your topper does your decorations justice. Dobbies's Gold North Star is a right bobby-dazzler that'll leave you in no doubt as to what's the centre of attention. £3.99 ([dobbies.com](http://dobbies.com))



## HIP TO BE SQUARE

Round pouffes? Do keep up! Square and rectangular footstools are everywhere right now. Feather & Black's cotton Chevron designs add a bold accent to your living room and double as a handy extra perch for festive gatherings. £90 each ([featherandblack.com](http://featherandblack.com))

## Material gains

If you're short on space, but can't forgo the presence of a Christmas tree, Ikea has the answer – its Vinter 2014 printed cotton fabric will add woodland charm to any space where a real six-footer just isn't practical. And as the fabric comes by the metre, you can turn your walls into a festive forest scene in an instant. £5 per m ([ikea.com](http://ikea.com))







# Fun & Games

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## Abigail's party

Interiors guru Abigail Ahern has created a capsule collection for sofa.com. Reflecting on her time living in downtown Manhattan, it includes an Art-Deco-inspired tub chair, a footstool and the Abigail sofa, *below*. Choose a deep pile upholstery fabric, such as this Hudson velvet in Roosevelt, to make the most of its retro vibe. £1,910 ([sofa.com](http://sofa.com))

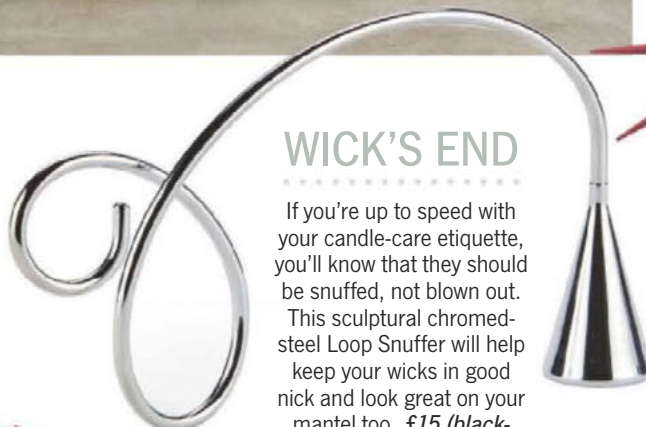


## ANIMAL CRACKERS

Get feeding time off to a bang – these Hackney Empire crackers feature a menagerie of curious creatures and contain useful kitchen gadgets. £50 for a box of six ([houseofhackney.com](http://houseofhackney.com))

## WICK'S END

If you're up to speed with your candle-care etiquette, you'll know that they should be snuffed, not blown out. This sculptural chromed-steel Loop Snuffer will help keep your wicks in good nick and look great on your mantel too. £15 ([blackblum.com](http://blackblum.com))



## YES DEER

Luxe British lifestyle brand Aspinall is having a serious fashion moment. This cute ceramic deer pendant is typical of the whimsical gifts and accessories on offer this Christmas as the company cements its status as the fashionista-in-the-know's new go-to. £75 ([aspinalloflondon.com](http://aspinalloflondon.com))

## DESIGN CRUSH

This month, we're lusting after...

## Vitra



FROM TOP LEFT Sunburst clock in Red, £252, George Nelson; Panton chair in Light Blue, £206, Verner Panton; and Love Heart cushion in Grey and Pink, £156, Alexander Girard, all Vitra

**USP...** Responsible for dozens of design classics, Swiss company Vitra has shaped the furniture industry and our homes for more than 60 years with its innovative and ground-breaking designs.

**THE LOWDOWN...** Established in 1950, Vitra has the rights to some of the 20th century's most iconic furniture: Charles and Ray Eames's plastic armchairs, Jean Prouvé's Standard SP chair and many more. In 1967, the company produced the first-ever chair made completely from a single piece of plastic, the Panton chair.

**WHY WE LOVE IT...** A strong design heritage and an archive of iconic pieces hasn't stopped Vitra from looking forward – the brand is constantly striving to create new designs to reflect the way we live now, seeking to improve the quality of living through design. It collaborates with some of the most talented designers working today, including Barber & Osgerby and Jasper Morrison.

**NEED TO KNOW...** Vitra has its own museum (the Vitra Design Museum) at its Weil am Rhein site in Germany. **STAR BUY...** With so many timeless pieces to choose from, you can't go wrong, but the Panton chair's sculptural shape, stackable design and accessible price point make it one of the greats. ([vitra.com](http://vitra.com))

## RING-A-DING

US interior design and furniture brand Holly Hunt has opened its first European flagship store in London's Mayfair. Channel its Upper East Side chic with this chestnut, bronze and lacquer Ring dining table. £15,795 ([hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com))



Livingetc  
LOVES



## Light years

British lighting brand Bert Frank's latest collection is full of mid-century-inspired gems. Our pick is this brass and aluminium Kernel table lamp in Matte Petrol Blue. At the flick of a switch, the beautiful glow from its opal glass orbs will give your space a snug, members' club vibe. £819.60 ([bertfrank.co.uk](http://bertfrank.co.uk))

## COCKTAIL HOUR

To impress party guests with your bartending skills, you need the right kit. West Elm's Deco stainless-steel barware collection comes with this marble stand, so you'll stay organised while shaking and stirring those festive tipples. £54 ([westelm.co.uk](http://westelm.co.uk))



Livingetc  
LOVES

## Gatsby glam

Sharing a thing for a luxe aesthetic, The Sofa & Chair Company and Zinc Textile have teamed up to create a range of seating. This Marcel cotton armchair in Glamorama has oodles of Twenties charm. £2,269 ([thesofaandchair.co.uk](http://thesofaandchair.co.uk))



## DECK THE HALLS

Cool Danish brand Hay has worked its magic on the humble playing card – this visually striking set rethinks the classic icons. Secret Santa sorted. £10 ([conranshop.co.uk](http://conranshop.co.uk))

## ONE TO WATCH... Get the lowdown on a future design star



LEFT Conker bamboo and ash occasional table, £275. BELOW Bareppa glass, oak and bunjee cord coffee table, £975 ([henryswanzy.com](http://henryswanzy.com))



## Henry Swanzy

**WHO?** Hailing from Falmouth in Cornwall, Henry Swanzy has been making handcrafted and bespoke furniture using indigenous timbers for more than 20 years.

**WHY?** When launching his eponymous brand at Tent London in 2013, Swanzy's timeless pieces were instantly picked up by Heal's. With its unusual and striking looks, we're tipping the Bareppa coffee table, left, as a future design classic.

**DESCRIBE YOUR DESIGN PHILOSOPHY...**

'What I hope all my designs achieve is simplicity, integrity and function. I love a simple solution, but I'm also a perfectionist. I'm not keen on decoration for its own sake. What I strive to achieve are designs that are beautiful in their functionality.'

**WHICH TIMBERS DO YOU PREFER TO WORK WITH?**

'We have a lot of wonderful woods here in the UK. Oak is a very special timber. Functionally, it's hard-wearing – it has beautiful colour and real majesty both as a tree and as a timber; it feels like an honour to be working with it. Ash is another wood we use a lot of. Straight and clean, with a very striking growth ring, it's the best for steam bending, which is something I'm exploring again for the first time in a few years.'

**WHICH PIECE FROM THE COLLECTION SUMS UP YOUR STYLE?**

'It's always the next one!'

For more information, visit [henryswanzy.com](http://henryswanzy.com)





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# Decoetc

Fabrics, surfaces and finishing touches...

## Stroke of genius

Livingetc hero Paola Navone has been revealed as the new creative director of textile house Dominique Kieffer by Rubelli. Her debut collection is a riot of sensory textures and reflects her love of the tactile – plush quilted velvets and woven tweeds sit alongside unpicked, raw natural linens. Is there anything the woman can't do? **£130 per m for Touche de Lin linen-mix in Denim, on chaise, below (rubelli.com)**



Livingetc  
LOVES

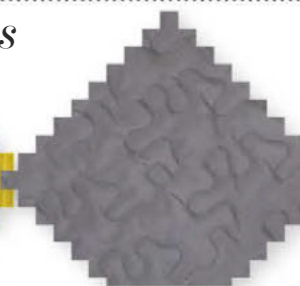
## BARKING MAD

Bringing a whole new meaning to the term rough-luxe, Haute Déco's new Bark collection of solid bronze cabinetry hardware lends a natural twist to cupboards and doors. Choose from Alder, Birch, Cedar or Maquetry textures and Antique Bronze, Satin Gold or Nickel plating – we'd use this Cedar D handle in Nickel in a painted kitchen to give it a glam update. **£125 (doorknobshop.com)**

## 3 of the BEST quilted fabrics



Loft GWF-2607.23 cotton/silk-mix in Chartreuse, **£115 per m**, Groundworks (leejofa.com)



Ether 34520366 polyester in Roche, **£111.30 per m** (casamance.com)



Volupté Désir LW 649 31 polyester-mix in Un Petit Air Coquin, **£266.40 per m**, Élitis (abbottandboyd.co.uk)

## WILD AT HEART

Wallpaper and textile maverick Timorous Beasties has forayed into the world of paint. A concoction of brilliantly bold shades with equally daring names such as Alky's Breath, left, and Cabin Crew, right, it captures the brand's rebellious spirit in paint form. **From £40 for 2.5l (timorousbeasties.com)**



## Copper top

Warm metallic tones cast a cosy glow, so can really help set a mood. With layers of metal leaf encased in glass, Original Style's Copper Leaf tiles will give dull kitchens a hot new look. **£53.95 per 60 x 30cm tile (originalstyle.com)**



## Fringe festival

Add a final flourish to your furnishings with Romo's first range of trimmings and tiebacks. The Tivoli collection includes beads, braids, fringes and pompoms aplenty – this jolly Pom Fringe in Camellia is also available in six other colourways. **£55 per m (romo.com)**







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- 1** Goodwill **bauble**, £9, Heal's  
**2** Bold Animal Foil **cushion**, £5, George Home at Asda  
**3** Gold Leopard **candle**, £90, L'Objet at Amara  
**4** Tiger **wallpaper**, £24 per 10m roll, Graham & Brown  
**5** Pari leather **pumps**, approx £218, Loeffler Randall  
**6** Day Noise **belt**, £50, Day Birger et Mikkelsen  
**7** Leather **tote**, £732, Dolce & Gabbana at farfetch.com  
**8** Swarovski crystal and gold-plated brass **necklace**, £1,090, Roberto Cavalli at net-a-porter.com  
**9** Leopardo lacquered-wood **commode**, £12,090, Barnaba Fornasetti at Sweetpea & Willow  
**10** Roar energy at the Sportmax autumn/winter 2014 show  
**11** Hutchinson **dinner plate**, £50, Ralph Lauren Home  
**12** Black Magic Leopard **crackers**, £30 for a box of six, Linea at House of Fraser  
**13** Martello two-seater velvet **sofa** in Leonine, £3,495, House of Hackney

# Feline GROOVY

Fierce and exotic, big cats are the most glamorous creatures in the animal kingdom, so it's no wonder we're adopting their spots and stripes this season. A staple of the fashion world, animal print has been in vogue since Christian Dior first used it during the late Forties. For autumn/winter 2014, leopard spots prowled down the catwalk at Sportmax, while Tom Ford worked with dainty cheetah dots. Having leapt into homeware, there's a touch of the feline on everything from furniture to flooring. Fornasetti's commode depicts a leopard stalking through the jungle, while House of Hackney's stylised Leonine sofa wears a more abstract coat. Graham & Brown's new Skin wallpapers, meanwhile, feature a menagerie of big-game prints for wild walls. So join our pride – let's hear that roar.





Wood grain cracker, £13.50 for a box of six, *Paperchase*



Tartan cracker, £30.80 for a box of four, *Hedgehog*



Organic chocolate cracker, £35 for a box of six, *Daylesford*



Colour Chart cracker, £25 for a box of six, *National Portrait Gallery Shop*

THE EDITED CHOICE

## CRACKERS

You'll find more than just a bad joke in these festive favourites

Livingetc LOVES



Nutcracker mini cracker, £10 for a box of six, *Meri Meri at Cotswold Trading*



Gold glitter cracker, £10 for a box of two, *M&S*



Marble Deli cracker, £55 for a box of six, *Celebration Crackers at Selfridges*



Black and Gold Dinner Party cracker, £7 for a box of six, *Tesco Direct*



Spotted cracker, £20 for a box of 12 (also includes six striped designs), *Debenhams*



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THE EDITED CHOICE

# Card holders

There's one with your name on it...

Research – Sophie Brown



Horse place-card holder, £195 for a set of six, *L'Objet at Amara*



Stag Head place-card holder, £3.80, *Lindsay Interiors*



Squirrel place-card holder, £6 for a set of six, *Next Home*



Ayers place-card holder, £195 for a set of four, *Ralph Lauren Home*



Mr Muse place-card holder, £98 for a set of four (including Mrs Muse), *Jonathan Adler*



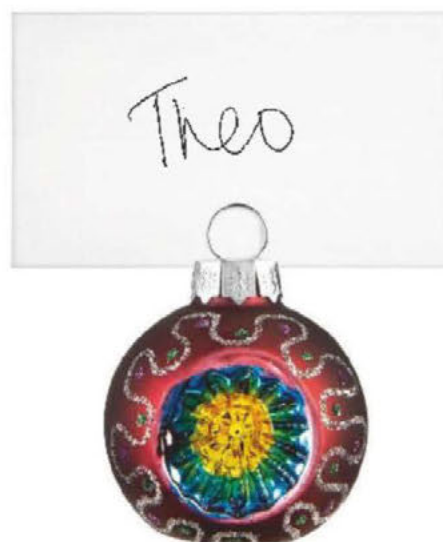
Birdcage place-card holder, £19.99 for a set of four, *Confetti*



Toadstool place-card holder, £7.50 for a set of four, *Velvet Brown at notonthehighstreet.com*



Table Town place-card holder in Red, £24 for a set of six, *Pea Green Boat*



Bauble place-card holder, £1.75, *Gisela Graham*

Livingetc  
LOVES





## AT HOME...

We love the combination of our Limehouse kitchen, Marton oak flooring and striking Cromwell lamp  
Create your own design ideas at [neptune.com](https://www.neptune.com)

*N*  
NEPTUNE





## WINTER WITH A SWEDISH ACCENT

If Sweden's cold winters and long nights have taught us anything, it's a special appreciation for warmth and light. It's probably why we love to make our homes beautifully festive for the holidays, and it's the inspiration behind the bright and joyful winter range at IKEA. From cosy duvet slippers to sparkling strings of lights, each piece was designed to instantly fill your home with holiday spirit. Don't be surprised if you feel like staying in every day – this season, home is where all the best things are happening.





**Image includes:**

**VINTERMYS hanging decoration £3/3 pack**  
White, porcelain

**STRÅLA light chain £20**  
LED with 18 balls

**VINTERKUL pastry cutters set £4**  
6-piece set

**VINTERMYS snowball candle £2.50/2 pack**  
White, unscented



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*Successful Living for Diesel at Diesel*

Pedal metal and leather  
industrial bar stool,  
£129, *B.A.R.A.K.'7*

Vig walnut-veneer bar stool in White,  
£169, *BoConcept*

Fur-topped bar stool, £69.99, *Zara Home*

Donut marsh grass and copper bar  
stool, £540, *Alessandra Baldereschi  
for Mogg at Go Modern*

## THE EDITED CHOICE

# Bar stools

Perching options for smart kitchens

Research – Jesse Harris

Dalfred wood bar stool,  
£29, *Sarah Fager for Ikea*

ICS lacquered-oak bar stool,  
£942, *Rodrigo Torres for Poliform*

New Antiques bar stool in White,  
£215, *Marcel Wanders for Moooi*

Svelto oak stacking bar stool, £305, *Ercol*



Workshop tarnished-metal industrial bar stool, £115, *Alexander & Pearl*



Real Good copper bar stool, £399, *Blu Dot at Heal's*



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Cream wood bar stool, £228.50, *Mr Smith Studio for Calligaris*



Bertoia chrome bar stool with Ultrasuede back and seat pads, from £870, *Harry Bertoia for Knoll*



Bryant Sgabello ash bar stool, £545, *Opera Design for Porada*



Hilton leather bar stool, £245, *Abigail Ahern*



Oscar wool-mix and wood bar stool, from £825, *The Sofa & Chair Company*



Miami string bar stool in Grey, £125, *Next Home*



Retro rattan bar stool in Natural, £199, *Nordic House*





## DESIGN CLASSIC

## 214 chair

*Designer* Michael Thonet, 1859.

*Details* Beech 214 chair in Black with wickerwork seat, *left*, from £520; beech 215R chair in Natural Beech with wickerwork seat and back, *far left*, from £620; and beech 214K knotted chair in Black with wickerwork seat, *right*, from £955, Gebrüder Thonet at Aram Store. Various finishes and colours are available.

*Background* The staple of cafés worldwide, the deceptively simple 214 was born when Prussian craftsman Thonet discovered how to bend wood without having to laminate it first. Made from six pieces of steam-bent beech, ten screws and two nuts, the No 14 chair (as it was originally called) was easily manufactured, packed and sent round the globe to be reassembled (it was the first flat-pack piece of furniture – almost 100 years before Ikea's self-assembly range began). By 1930, more than 50 million chairs had been sold. Famous fans of the revolutionary design included Lenin, Einstein, Brahms and Picasso. Le Corbusier said of it, 'Never before was something more elegant... and more fit for practical use'. Today, the chair is considered the most successful industrial product in the history of mass-production and is still being made in more or less the same way by the fifth generation of Thonets in Germany. The knotted version was created for the 150th anniversary in 2009 – literally, a clever twist on the classic.





HOUSE of the MONTH

# Girls aloud

When Melanie and her teenage daughters want to let down their hair, the family's pared-back Belgian townhouse is the perfect place for a party

Photography – Paul Massey  
Styling – Dina Koulla  
Words – Andréa Childs

## ENTRANCE HALL

Milan texts her friends from the house's sweeping staircase, which leads to the large hallway between the dining and living rooms. As in the rest of the property, Melanie has kept the floorboards bare. 'I don't like varnish,' she says. 'It always yellows eventually and ruins the beauty of the wood.'

**GET THE LOOK** To source a similar wrought-iron balustrade, try Arc Fabrications. For a matching warm white paint, check out Whitening by Little Greene.



## Home profile

**THE OWNER** Melanie Ireland, a children's clothing designer, and her daughters Milan, 17, and Rae, 15, plus Omar the cat.

**THE PROPERTY** A five-storey townhouse in the centre of Antwerp in Belgium. Melanie's design studio is on the ground floor. There's a living room, dining room, kitchen and terrace on the first floor. The second floor has Melanie's bedroom, an en-suite bathroom and dressing room. Milan's bedroom and en suite, Rae's bedroom, another bathroom and a WC are on the third floor. The upper level has two further bedrooms and a roof terrace.

## DINING ROOM

'I'm a real foodie and love to cook, so this is where I'll be serving dinner for my friends on New Year's Eve,' says Melanie. The room encapsulates the timeless look she wanted: a marble fireplace, modernist chairs and a contemporary table creating a serene and stylish space.

**GET THE LOOK** The table is custom-made. See *Another Country's* Dining Table Two for a similar design. These are Wishbone chairs by Hans J Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn, available at The Conran Shop. For original marble fireplaces like this one, visit Chesney's.





## LIVING ROOM

The townhouse has period proportions – floor-to-ceiling French windows open out on to a balcony.

**GET THE LOOK** For full-length curtains like these, try Chelsea Textiles. Jim Lawrence sells similar metal curtain poles.





**LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE**

'I didn't want to fill this place with furniture, but I needed it to look warm and inviting, so cushions add softness and colour,' says Melanie. 'And we always light the fire in the evening.'

**GET THE LOOK** The sofa, armchair and ottoman are by Axel Vervoordt. Try Content by Conran for a matching sofa and ottoman. See *Ideas to Steal* for a similar armchair. For soft furnishings in this style, visit *Oka*. Many of the accessories are from Belgian outlet *Bea Items*. Head to *Anthropologie* for a similarly eclectic selection.





# ‘I operate an open-house policy on New Year’s Eve,’

says Melanie Ireland. ‘Anyone who’s on their own is welcome! It can be such a depressing night when everyone else is celebrating, so I invite my single friends, we get dressed up, enjoy a fantastic dinner, then set off fireworks from the roof terrace. It’s an amazing way to start the year.’

With a glamorous staircase that’s just made for sweeping down, wood floors ideal for dancing across and white walls that set off a designer dress to perfection, there couldn’t be a more perfect place for a party. But this stunning townhouse isn’t just a one-night wonder – it enjoys a 365-days-per-year existence as a family home and work space too.

English-born Melanie bought the Antwerp property 15 years ago and it’s where her daughters Milan and Rae have grown up. The family lives on the top four storeys, with the ground floor occupied by Melanie’s design studio. She previously created fashion collections for the Belgian womenswear brand Anvers, but launched her own children’s clothing line called Simple Kids when she became a mum. ‘Of course, my girls never wanted to wear the clothes I made when they were younger,’ Melanie says with a laugh. ‘Now they do, but they’re too big to fit into the children’s sizes!’ Fortunately, she has a huge wardrobe they can raid instead...

The house dates back to the late 19th century, but wears its modern, multitasking persona well. The scale of the building helps – graceful floor-to-ceiling windows flood each room with light; high ceilings give its occupants space to breathe; floors seem to go on forever. ‘Despite its size, it’s important to me that the house is functional and every room is used – when a space is left empty, it feels cold and dies a little,’ says Melanie. ‘I’m divorced, so when the girls aren’t with me, my home still has to feel alive and warm. I’ve opened it up to make the most of the light and original features, but I’ve also added soft fabrics and rich textures that I pick up on my travels to ensure it stays cosy and inviting.’

From the moment Melanie first saw the house, she was seduced by its faded glamour. Bombed during the First World War, it was completely rebuilt in 1924 with the original plasterwork, wrought-iron balustrade and herringbone flooring restored. But the electrics and plumbing were in dire need of replacement and Melanie also wanted to take down some walls to make the most of the space. Renowned Belgian architect Vincent Van Duysen helped her to design the new

layout and plan the refurbishment, with the work taking a year to complete. ‘I wanted the finished look to be timeless,’ says Melanie, ‘so I pared everything back, with just a very few materials recurring throughout – Carrara marble, unvarnished wood, glass – and a palette of black, white and taupe. When I go out, I’ll pair a simple black dress with a gold handbag. Here, the bling is a gilt mirror on a marble fireplace.’

With such an understated background, Melanie might have been tempted to fill the space with colour and statement furniture. But this interior is an exercise in restraint – and an example of how a lack of funds can lead to the most creative design decisions. ‘I didn’t have the budget to fill the walls with giant canvases – I put my money into buying the best sofa I could instead,’ Melanie says, smiling. ‘I also seriously underestimated how hard it is to furnish such a big house. I would buy a bunch of flowers and they would seem to disappear, the curtains needed to be really long and heavy to suit the scale of the windows; the chairs had to be oversized so they didn’t get lost in a room; I bought the longest dining table I could find. Fortunately, it means the house retains the air of tranquillity I fell in love with.’

Until the fireworks go off on New Year’s Eve, that is. The rest of the year, Melanie and her girls can sit back and enjoy the slow-burn style of their beautiful home in peace.

*Take a look at Melanie’s clothing designs at [simplekids.be](http://simplekids.be). See more of her architect’s work at [vincentvandyusen.com](http://vincentvandyusen.com)*





## Home truths

**WHERE DO YOU SPEND CHRISTMAS?** I'll be back with my parents in Sussex.

**WHEN DID YOU KNOW ANTWERP WAS HOME?** I bought a washing machine and thought, 'That's it – I can't ship that back to Britain.' I was 21.

**WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT BRITAIN?** The humour.

**WHAT WILL YOU MAKE FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER?**

Anything by Yotam Ottolenghi.

**HOW DO YOU ORGANISE YOUR WARDROBE?** By item, not colour.

**FAVOURITE HOME FRAGRANCE?** Aqua Universalis Forte by Maison Francis Kurkdjian Paris.

**BEST HANGOVER CURE?** Water, water, water, sleep, sleep.

**ANY REGRETS?** You should never regret.



## KITCHEN

This space is long and narrow, but Melanie decided to keep the kitchen in its original position, rather than moving it to a larger room. 'It's actually really functional and the glass wall units and adjacent terrace add a sense of space,' she says.

**GET THE LOOK** The cabinetry was designed by architect Vincent Van Duysen. Try Plain English for something similar. The work surface is Carrara marble. Find a match at Mandarin Stone. This is a Lacanche range cooker.

## ← FIRST-FLOOR LANDING

Panelled walls and light-coloured floors help frame Melanie's carefully selected edit of artwork and furniture.

**GET THE LOOK** These are Kilin armchairs by Sergio Rodrigues for Espasso. For a mobile like this, see the selection inspired by Alexander Calder at 1stdibs.com.



## Livingetc loves

**MELANIE'S CAREFUL EDIT** of materials and surfaces: wood, marble, glass. Who needs anything more?

**HER PARED-BACK DESIGN AESTHETIC** – the spaces between each item of furniture are as eloquent as the pieces themselves.

**UNEXPECTED COLOUR ACCENTS.** Books, photos and the spinning sails of a suspended mobile all add depth to the rooms.

**GENTLE JUXTAPOSITIONS** that discreetly disrupt the design. Think glitzy gilt and bare wood; smooth marble and soft kilims; metal and leather.

**QUIETLY QUIRKY DISPLAY IDEAS** such as the fireplace filled with magazines.



*'You'll always find the girls in my bathroom – that's where all the beauty products are!'*



### ↑ EN-SUITE BATHROOM →

Clever carpentry is the secret to this glamorous scheme. Double doors divide it from the bedroom, while inside, the 'cupboards' on either side of the bath conceal the loo and the shower. More cabinetry provides storage for nail varnishes and make-up.

**GET THE LOOK** The en suite was designed by Vincent Van Duysen. For a Carrara marble bath surround like this, head to Stone Age.

### ← MASTER BEDROOM →

The fireplace in Melanie's bedroom is blocked up, so she has filled the void with her collection of magazines. 'It keeps them out of the way and I think it looks quite nice!' she says.

**GET THE LOOK** For a similar bed, try Heal's. Habitat sells nests of tables. For large gilt mirrors like this, visit Overmantels. This is the 4801 armchair in White by Joe Colombo for Kartell. For paper pompoms, visit RE.









## GIRLS' BATHROOM ↑

Cladding the walls in tongue-and-groove panelling adds to the stripped-back feel. The inset basin is another clever touch.  
**GET THE LOOK** B&Q sells tongue-and-groove panelling. Try CP Hart for sleek bathroom furniture. For light-oak flooring, head to Ecora.

## MILAN'S BEDROOM ↗

Kilim rugs brought back from Turkey decorate Milan's bedroom. 'I love their vibrancy and patterns and they add warmth and texture to the décor,' says Melanie.  
**GET THE LOOK** For vintage kilim rugs, try Kalkan Trading. This is the KM05 stool by Cees Braakman for Pastoe, available at Viaduct.

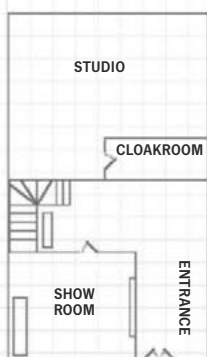
## EXTERIOR →

Grey granite punctuated by huge panes of glass and wrought-iron balconies makes a grand impression.



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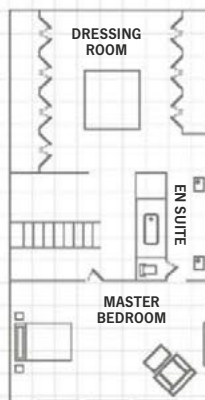
## The blueprint



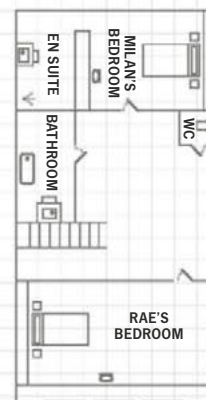
GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR





# IDEAS toSTEAL

*Spice up a period space with layers of luxe textures and punchy pops of colour*

## KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Calacatta honed **marble**, from £47.76 per sq m, Mandarin Stone; Newbury Hopsack **viscose/linen-mix** in Light Grey, £39.50 per m, Ian Mankin; and engineered white-oiled oak **flooring**, £71.82 per sq m, Ecora



## KEY FEATURE Arched French doors

Among the many classic features Melanie inherited with her home is this set of glazed doors, which separates the dining room from the first-floor landing. The arched design not only looks impressive, but allows light to flood through the house. To re-create this style, contact a specialist joiner via [ratedpeople.com](http://ratedpeople.com), or source reclaimed original fittings from a salvage expert such as Arc Reclamation ([arcrec.com](http://arcrec.com)). Expect to pay from £145 for a single Victorian glazed door, but do budget for substantial installation and labour costs.

## KEY PRODUCTS



**1** Flowing Rhythm **mobile**, £30, Ole Flensted for Flensted Mobiles at Twentytwentyone  
**2** Large Tribal kilim **cushion**, £39.95, Myakka **3** Marquise distressed-metal French **wall mirror**, £240, The French Bedroom Company **4** Brass **cube**, £1,200, Trunk **5** Fortuna **floor lamp**, £229; and drum **shade**, from £25, Oka  
**6** Everywhere **rug** in Grey Stripe, £75, Cox & Cox **7** Pascale linen **armchair** in Grise, £1,075, Graham and Green



DECORATING FOCUS

# SHANGHAI SURPRISE

Celebrate New Year's Eve with cherry blossom, Oriental motifs  
and lanterns that light up the sky

Photography – Simon Bevan  
Styling – Amanda Koster

## GOOD FORTUNE

*Greet your friends with a stylish  
cocktail tray.*

Cocktail **glasses**, £39 each, English Antique Glass.  
Cocktail **parasols**, £1.38 for a pack of 12, Meena's  
Florist Supplies at Amazon. For a similar vintage  
**mirror tray**, £325, try Brownrigg.



## GUEST BOOK

*Take snaps of the gang as the music starts up – then compare notes in the morning.*

Battery **LED lights**, £6.60, DZD. Antique Chinese lacquered-wood **dining table**, £4,595, Orchid. *On table, from left:* Chinese **ginger jar** in Blue and White, £195; and Chinese **ginger jar** in Yellow, £245, Orchid; vintage **cameras**, from £299.99 each, from a selection on eBay and at The Photographers' Gallery; **pot** in Turquoise, £27.50, Rouge; and **faux blossoms**, here and throughout, from a selection at Withycombe Fair.







## SINGAPORE SLINGS

*A vintage cabinet makes a sturdy bar. Brightly coloured glass adds to the fun factor.*

← Reconditioned Chinese lacquered-wood **cabinet**, £995, Rouge. *On cabinet, from left:* small **flask** in Topaz, £450, Joe Cariati at The Conran Shop; vintage **jug** in Red, £86, Northcote Road Antiques Market; try eBay for similar vintage Chinese **figures**; Petite **decanter** in Gray, £450; Angelic **bottle** in Steel Blue, £295; and Tear Drop **decanter** in Amber, £450, all Joe Cariati at The Conran Shop. *In cabinet, top shelf from left:* champagne **coupees**, £12 each, Northcote Road Antiques Market; Helianthus **goblet** in Green, £6, Anthropologie; Lucca **tumblers** in Green, £7 each, Bitossi Home at Heal's; vintage **wine glass** in Green, £12, Northcote Road Antiques Market; and Idra **tumblers** in Verde, £39 each, Nason Moretti at The Conran Shop. *Second shelf from left:* vintage **brandy glass** in Blue, £35 for a set of six, Northcote Road Antiques Market; Helianthus **goblet** in Blue and Lucca **tumblers** in Blue, as before; and Bubbles **tumblers** in Blue, £6 each, Pols Potten at Heal's. *Third shelf from left:* Bubble **glasses** in Orange, £5.50 each, Rouge; Bubbles **tumblers** in Orange, vintage **brandy glass** in Amber; Bubble **glasses** in Yellow; and Lucca **tumblers** in Amber, as before. *Bottom shelf:* selection of **sake bottles**, from £3.15 each, Wing Yip. Flash Rectangle glass and brass **side table**, £285, Tom Dixon. *On side table, from left:* **sake**, as before; glass **goblets** in Blue, £1 each, Trinity Hospice Charity Shop; and **cocktail shaker** in Mustard, £45, Northcote Road Antiques Market. Embroidered silk **lanterns**, from £45 each, Rouge. Nabarniz hexagonal wool **rug**, £660, Missoni Home at Amara.

Vintage Chinese advertising **posters**, from £10 each, Rouge. Paper lantern **light garland**, £18.50, Red Lilly at notonthehighstreet.com. Paper **cranes**, £200 for a string of 100, Origami by Sesame's. Chinese laquered-elm fretwork **panel**, £995, Orchid. →





## FAN FAIR

*Dress every space with accent shades inspired by the east.*

Try Elisabeth James Antiques for a similar carved-oak hall stand, £1,650. Fans, from £12 each; and parasols, from £7 each, Rouge.









## FLOOR FILLER

*When the clock strikes midnight, shower the revellers with oversized paper decs.*

← Traditional Chinese paper **lanterns**, from £1.80 each, Wing Yip. Paper honeycomb **balls**, from £2.60 each, Petra Boase. Paper honeycomb **decorations**, £6 for a set of three; and paper fan **decorations**, £6 for a set of three, Decadent Decs at Talking Tables. Try [artfinder.co.uk](http://artfinder.co.uk) for similar black and white **prints**. Find an Ernest Race Antelope steel and plywood **chair**, £398, at Heal's. Paperchase sells **confetti**. Key Shadow wool **rug**, £640 per sq m, Suzanne Sharp for The Rug Company.

Paper **cranes**, as before. Paper honeycomb **decorations**, as before. Try [made.com](http://made.com) for a similar button-back cotton **armchair**, £299. Visit Amazon for a Chinese lucky fortune **cat**, from £6.45. Check out eBay for similar vintage Chinese **figures**, on *shelving*. →



← **Parasols**, as before. Try Etsy for a similar figurine **lamp base** and **lamp shade**, from £20 each. For a similar oak **side table**, see the Copenhagen, £256, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Hay at [nest.co.uk](http://nest.co.uk).



## SWEET DREAMS

*Sit back and make a resolution in the chill-out zone. 2015 is up for grabs...*

Star neon **light**, £1,500; and Make Believe neon **light**, £1,200, Gods Own Junkyard. Papier-mâché **head**, £19.80, Wing Yip. Neon Deco **light sticks**, £175 each, The Conran Shop. Try Retrospective Interiors for a similar beech and cotton **armchair**, £375. **Cushion** in Green, £26.50, Rouge. New Year **envelopes**, £1.19 for a pack of six; and fortune **cookies**, 99p for a box of 12, Wing Yip. Try Chad Valley at Argos for similar **Hula Hoops**, £4.99 for a set of two. Paper honeycomb **balls**, from £2.60 each, Petra Boase. For similar **wallpaper**, see Lear Dark. £225 per 0.9m roll, Kristjana S Williams.







Try Habitat for a similar velvet three-seater **sofa**, £1,890. Mah Jong modular **sofa**, from £900 per unit depending on fabric used, Hans Hopfer for Roche Bobois. Try The Japanese Shop for a similar floral **kimono**, from £139. Potentilla **cushion** in Midnight/Pewter, £55, Clarissa Hulse. Bird print **cushion**, £26.50; and floral **cushion** in Maroon, £21, Rouge. Papier-mâché **head**, as before. Concentric **cushion**, £100, Niki Jones at Amara. Large Palmeral **cushion** in White/Green, £135; and medium Palmeral **cushion** in Midnight/Azure, £75, House of Hackney. Geometric **cushion**, £27.95, Rouge. Aqua Repeat **cushion**, £39.95, Anthropologie. Pipevine **cushion** in Hot Pink/Storm/Gun Metal, £55, Clarissa Hulse. *On floor*: floral **cushion** in Turquoise, £26.50, Rouge; and Orimono **cushion**, £68, Anthropologie. Bubblegum silk and wool **rug**, £850 per sq m, Deirdre Dyson. Noceda **pouf**, £564, Missoni Home at Amara. Ensnared **lamp base**, £218, Anthropologie. Tiny Vine **lamp shade** in Peacock, £75, Clarissa Hulse. Try Amazon for a similar **lantern**. Faux cherry blossom **branch**, £14, Rockett St George. **Wallpaper**, as before.



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— ✂ —

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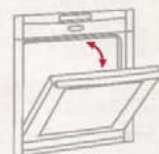
"WHY BAKE A HOUSE  
WHEN YOU CAN BAKE  
A WHOLE VILLAGE?"

ABBIE

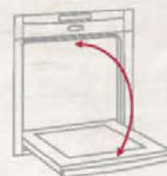


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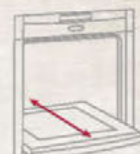
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# SHOP FOCUS *Tree themes*

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Research – Jesse Harris

## PEACOCK BLUES

Gem Swirl tree topper, £14.99, Festive Productions

Glittered baubles, £1 for a pack of two, Poundland

Sequin and bead garland, £10, Habitat

Peacock feather butterfly, £12.99, The Chelsea Gardener

Peacock bauble, £6.99 for a pack of two, Wyevale Garden Centres

Feathered peacock, £40, Burford Garden Company

4ft tinsel tree, £29.99, festive-lights.co.uk

## PINK PERFECTION

Eiffel Tower decoration, £6.99, Festive Productions

Lace Ball Fin tree topper, £27.95, Harrods

Bauble, £4.99 for a pack of nine, Homebase

Bell honeycomb garlands, £15 each, Decadent Decs at Talking Tables

Minerale fairy lights, £22, Habitat

3ft artificial tree, £25, M&S

Cake Tower decoration, £10, Katherine's Collection at Fortnum & Mason

Livingetc  
LOVES



## WORLD CLASS



Ceramic feather **decoration**,  
£4.50, V&A Shop



Beaded parrot  
**decoration**, £10,  
The Conran Shop



Star **tree topper**, £22,  
Rowen & Wren



Star **garland**,  
£19.50, Toast

Ferrara **decoration**,  
£14, Anthropologie



Livingetc  
LOVES



**Bauble** with artificial  
sedum, £15.99, The  
Chelsea Gardener



4ft 4in recycled cardboard  
**tree**, £92, Cardboard  
Christmas at Etsy

## INTO THE WOODS



Trumpet **decoration**,  
£22, Plümo



Star **tree topper**,  
£20, House of Fraser

Artificial pine cone  
and fir **garland**, £70,  
The White Company



Mushroom **decoration**,  
£1.75, Wilko



Spider web  
**decoration**, £7.99,  
The Chelsea  
Gardener



Owl **decoration**, £10,  
House of Fraser



2ft 7in wood **tree**,  
£49.95, Harrods



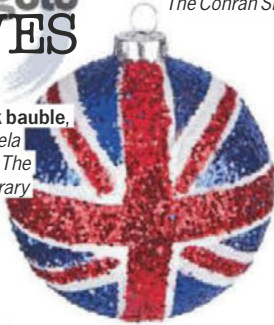
## BEST OF BRITISH

Livingetc  
LOVES



Union Jack bauble, £4.50, Gisela Graham at The Contemporary Home

Big Ben decoration, £5, Berry Red



Nutcracker tree topper, £49, Oberfrankische at The Conran Shop



Star tinsel, £7.50, The Conran Shop



Bulldog in Top Hat decoration, £14.95, Cody Foster & Co at Harrods



7ft Weeping Spruce artificial tree, £189.99, National Tree Company at Hayes Garden World



Phone box decoration, £4, M&S



## DUSTING OF GLAM

Glitter deer decoration, £7.50 for a set of four, Cox & Cox



Star tree topper, £5, Wilko



Antler decoration, £12.50, Petersham Nurseries



Pom Pom garland, £15, The White Company

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SMART  
BUY



House decoration, £5.95, Rigby & Mac



5ft artificial tree, £79.99, Homebase



Stråla LED light chain, £20, Ikea



## MODERN SCANDI

Livingetc  
LOVES

Teardrop  
decorations,  
£14.95 for a set of six,  
*grandillusions.co.uk*



Star tree topper,  
£14, *Anthropologie*



Merry Christmas felt  
garland, £1, *Poundland*



Scandi Rocking Horse  
decoration, £7.50,  
*Berry Red*



Livingetc  
SMART  
BUY

Cinnamon sticks  
decoration, £1,  
*Sainsbury's*



Resin gingerbread  
decoration,  
£6.99, *The Chelsea Gardener*



8ft pre-lit artificial  
tree, £125,  
*John Lewis*



## BAROQUE 'N' ROLL

Livingetc  
LOVES

Sunburst cherub  
decoration, £5.50,  
*India Jane*



Music Note angel,  
£19.95, *Gisela Graham  
at Liberty*

Chandelier string lights, £25, *BHS*



Raindrop decoration, £3, *B&Q*

Clock decoration,  
£4.99, *Gisela Graham*



Crown decoration, £5.99,  
*Historic Royal Palaces*



6ft Flocked Noble  
artificial tree,  
£109.95, *Swift at  
White Stores*





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# IT'S A WRAP

Prezzie presentation ideas that  
really are the full package



PILE 'EM HIGH

*You mean we have to open all of these before we can sit down to lunch? Oh, go on then...*

For a selection of similar wrapping paper, go to Ikea.





## JOINED-UP THINKING

*Come to the end of the roll? Use various wrapping or wallpaper leftovers to create a parcel with personality.*

Next Home sells **wrapping paper** like this. For similar striped **string**, go to Labour and Wait.





## PASS THE PARCEL

*Let Rudolph take the reins with this decorative bunch of mini Advent calendar treats.*

This **Advent Deer** is from Car-Möbel.





## SOCK IT TO ME

*Have a family DIY session and make personalised stockings.*

For stockings and a sack like these, check out John Lewis.





## PRESENT DAY

*It's not all about red and green this Christmas – go mono, or add a neon accent.*

*Clockwise from top left: for similar white **boxes**, try DZD; Sew and So sells wood **buttons** like these; Rockett St George supplies similar black and white **boxes**; Dom and Geri does bespoke **wrapping paper** like this; for similar Washi **tape**, try Molly-Meg.*





## BOXED IN

*What's better than a present? Why, a present full of presents, of course!*

Go to [Caroline Gardner](#) for wrapping paper like this.





## POT OF GOLD

*Give your humdrum planters a new purpose by loading them with metallic gifts.*

Copper baubles, wrapping paper, planters and tree, all Cox & Cox.





## SILVER LINING

*Balloons spell party, so prepare your gifts for liftoff with hot-air heroes.*

Go to Balloon Monkey for silver balloons like these. For similar white wrapping paper, try Party Delights.





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# HOMIES

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page 72

**VIVE LA DIFFERENCE!**  
*Inventive touches give this family house its individual look*

page 82

**PASSION FOR FASHION**  
*Cutting-edge style meets iconic design in a New York duplex*

page 92

**BLUE SWOON**  
*Harmony is a home dressed in cyan, cobalt and aqua tones*

92





# Vive la différence!

Sandrine and Hervé's home has classical bones, but its quirky design makes it more buzzing than bourgeois



Photography – Julien Fernandez/Gap Interiors  
Styling – Amandine Berthon  
Words – Joanna Simmons



## Home profile

**THE OWNERS** Sandrine Ziegler-Munck, an interior and graphic designer, her husband Hervé Munck, a marketing director, and their children Paul, eight, and Fleur, six.  
**THE PROPERTY** A three-storey house built in 1908 in Mulhouse, France. The ground floor includes a kitchen-diner, dining room, living room, library and office. The first floor includes a master bedroom, dressing room, two further bedrooms, a bathroom and a playroom. There is a self-contained apartment on the top floor.

### ← LANDING

Sandrine painted the woodwork on the second floor black in her bid to avoid the conventional. A swing makes the landing a great place for Paul and Fleur to play.  
**GET THE LOOK** Try *Made in Design* for a swing like this. Check out *Hurn & Hurn* for a dog light similar to this one.

### HALLWAY

The elegant original staircase snakes up from the front door. Here, Sandrine has hung a mirror mobile, made bespoke to her own design. 'It's really welcoming,' she says. 'It's like the masterpiece of the whole house.' She made the circular striped artwork on the wall to echo the circular mirrors of the mobile.

**GET THE LOOK** For an equally show-stopping modern mobile, try *Flensted Mobiles* at *Drift Living*. Find original floor tiles like these at the *Vintage Floor Tile Company*.



# 'Unconventional

## DINING ROOM ↓

Sandrine loves to mix objects from different sources to create unusual combinations. Here, a 19th-century console is topped off with a kitsch deer and bird beneath glass domes, creating a witty vignette.

**GET THE LOOK** The console is a family heirloom. See *Ideas to Steal* for a similar design. This is the Vapeur lamp by Inga Sempé for Paris firm Moustache, available at [yoox.com](http://yoox.com). The fabric mural was designed by Sandrine and made by French company Barrisol. Surface View could make something similar.



– that's how the interior of this house had to be,' says Sandrine Ziegler-Munck of the home she shares with her husband Hervé Munck and children Paul and Fleur. Built in 1908 in the French city of Mulhouse, the handsome property boasts proportions that are more ballroom than bijou. The couple adored it at first viewing, but were wary of letting its turn-of-the-century elegance dictate the design pace. 'I was afraid of it looking too bourgeois and posh!' says Sandrine. 'I didn't want to create a home that felt very classical.'

The solution? Sandrine wove a creative mix of witty details and quirky design ideas into the elegant rooms. 'I have tried to mix and match pieces that are younger, more fun and not at all conventional,' she says. Now, shelves in the library have sections painted an egg-yolk yellow and Sandrine's own wonderful murals, made from stretched polymer (or fabric), bring the vast walls and ceilings to life. 'It's about changing the rules and pushing the boundaries,' she says.

Getting the property to its current, striking, state, took around eight months of work. When Sandrine and Hervé bought it in October 2012, it had been lived in by the same man all his life – a mixed blessing. 'The house was largely untouched,' says Sandrine. 'It hadn't been modernised at all, so it had lots of details to die for – gorgeous ceilings, mouldings and the show-stopping staircase.' But while original features were preserved, everything else had been neglected. 'It was crying out for someone to transform it,' says Sandrine.

This transformation involved taking down a wall in the kitchen to create a family dining space, but, otherwise, Sandrine and Hervé maintained the original configuration. 'It was already so beautiful and the proportions so good, it would have been a shame to change it,' says Sandrine. There was still plenty to do, though. All 52 windows were replaced, floors were sanded and crumbling ceilings repaired, with the family living in the house for the last five months of work. 'That was absolutely awful!' says Sandrine, gulping. 'Dirty, noisy and up to ten different workmen coming in and out all day long! All forgotten now, though...'

As work progressed, steering the house away from the stuffy was one priority; making its dimensions work for a family of four became another. 'It's a big house, double the size of our last home, and there was a risk we could lose ourselves in it,' says Sandrine. Clever additions, such as the swing on the landing, make the vast space wonderfully interactive for Paul, Fleur and their friends, while a sound-absorbing lining fitted to the walls and ceiling in the living and dining rooms helps these huge spaces feel intimate. 'It muffles noise and really improves the ambience,' says Sandrine. So when 12 family members gather round the table for Christmas dinner or friends come to chill out with drinks on New Year's Eve, all you will hear is the warm hum of chatter, not an unappealing echo.

Another cosy-making factor is colour. The family's last home, which was featured in *Livingetc* in April 2012, was a blizzard of fresh white. 'But white would be too cold here,' says Sandrine. Instead, a gentle palette of greys helps warm the large rooms, while a cobalt blue creates a vibrant welcome in the hallway. 'The colours are soft on the whole, with a shot of energy when you first come in,' says Sandrine. In fact, you could read that blue as a mission statement.

'From the outside, this house looks very elegant, but when people come in, there's a real "wow!" moment. It shouts: expect the unexpected here!' says Sandrine. 'That was my challenge – to create a surprise. I think I managed it!'

Contact Sandrine via [sandrineziegler.com](mailto:sandrineziegler.com)







# LIVING ROOM ↑

The ceiling is made from stretched polymer, printed with a design created by Sandrine. She also made the wooden block stools. 'They are carved from a tree we had in the garden of our last home,' she says. 'We painted the tops with bright colours.'

**GET THE LOOK** Sandrine designed the image on the ceiling for French company Barrisol. See *Ideas to Steal* for more info. The pendant light is the Avico from FontanaArte. These are RAR armchairs by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra. This is the Barcelona couch by Mies van der Rohe for Knoll.



## KITCHEN

'These incredible tiles are original and date back to 1908,' says Sandrine. 'When we saw them, we fell in love with this kitchen – so charming, so vintage!' To complement them, Sandrine chose furniture that was very simple and modern. 'We also painted the three parts of the kitchen with the same three blues that were found in the floor.'

**GET THE LOOK** Try Bert & May for patterned wall tiles and mosaic floor tiles like these. Roundhouse does similar kitchen islands. The Flow bar stool by Jean-Marie Massaud for MDF Italia has a similar look. This is the Eros chair by Philippe Starck for Kartell, available at Heal's.





## Home truths

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR 2015?** To spend time with my family, perhaps travelling together, to continue to create, to lead an exciting life and meet new people.  
**ANY PLANS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE?** We might have a small party in the house, with our children and a few friends. I love Christmas, but not New Year so much – I don't like being under pressure to have a good time!  
**BEST THING ABOUT JANUARY?** Going to Maison & Objet in Paris. I have never missed one in 20 years.  
**IF YOU HAD AN EXTRA HOUR IN THE DAY, HOW WOULD YOU USE IT?** Reading a fashion or interior design magazine in complete peace and quiet. It's never happened yet!  
**WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT FOR YOUR HOUSE?** Flowers, because I really love having fresh flowers in the house.  
**IS THIS YOUR FOREVER HOME?** Maybe not. We wanted a bigger garden, which is why we bought this place, but moving house has become a drug for us! We have lots of fun, imagining new ways to decorate, new colours, new configurations...



## ← LIBRARY

Chunky shelves built against the library wall create plenty of space for storage and display. Painting some of the recesses in a contrasting yellow keeps the bookcase from appearing too serious. It's a classic Sandrine touch.

**GET THE LOOK** Paul White Carpentry, via [mybuilder.com](http://mybuilder.com), could create a curved bookcase like this. For a transparent chair, see the Victoria Ghost chair by Philippe Starck for Kartell, available at Heal's.

## HALLWAY ↑

'I always knew I wanted something very strong on the first floor,' says Sandrine. 'The blue is decorative and fun and a nice contrast to the classic exterior of the property.' Painting a simple console table the same shade as the walls and doors adds a quirky note.

**GET THE LOOK** See *Ideas to Steal* for a match for the brilliant blue emulsion used here. Parquet Parquet supplies reclaimed parquet flooring.





## MASTER BEDROOM ↑

There are no pictures on the wall in this room. 'I hadn't found the right place for them,' explains Sandrine. 'So I put them on the floor, leaning against the wall, and they looked so beautiful, I now don't want to hang them up!'

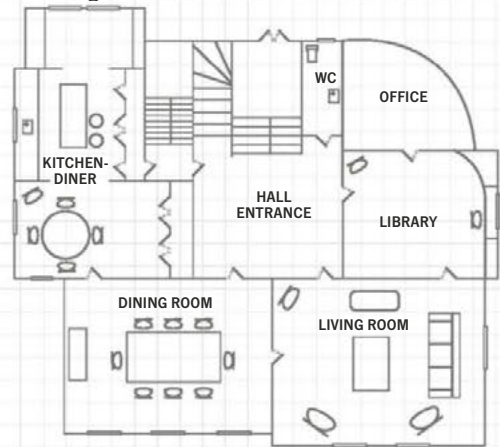
**GET THE LOOK** The floor lamp is from Artemide's Tolomeo range. Find a similar valance and bedding at Feather & Black.

## DRESSING ROOM →

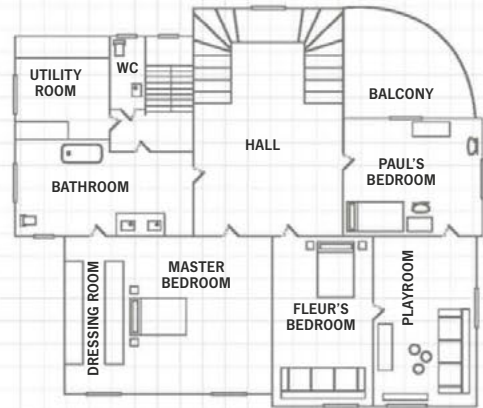
The master bedroom was so big, it made sense to use a portion of it as built-in wardrobe space. This area now sits just behind the bed. 'Reducing the size of the bedroom made it feel cosier,' says Sandrine, while also creating plenty of useful, out-of-sight storage.

**GET THE LOOK** London Home Upgrades, via mybuilder.com, could create a walk-in wardrobe system like this.

## The blueprint



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



*'This house had to be a bit crazy – to express the young family that lives here'*



## PAUL'S ROOM

'This was the only room in the house that had been modernised by the old man who used to live here,' says Sandrine. 'He ripped out all the details and features and changed the doors, so the space felt really sad.' To offset its lack of original features and create some interest, Sandrine painted a yellow strip at an off-kilter angle around the room.

**GET THE LOOK** The chest of drawers is from Ikea. The child's armchair is a vintage find. Try Dunelm for a chair along these lines. Bodie and Fou sells decorative animal heads.



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Vive la différence!



## IDEAS toSTEAL

Standout bespoke features and one-off pieces give a neutral space big personality

### KEY SURFACES



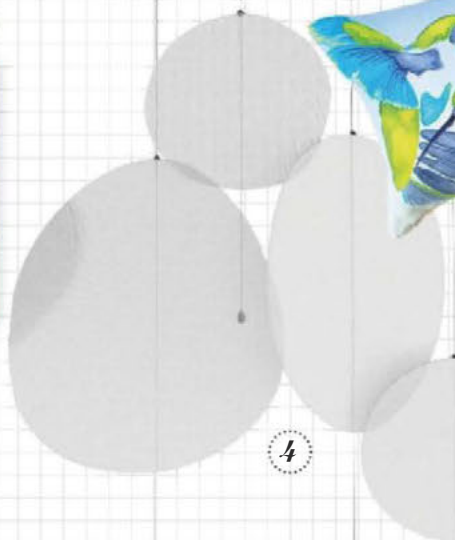
FROM LEFT B144/M1451 Greek Key mosaic tiles, £42.50 per sq m, Walls and Floors; Striking Cyan matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5l, Dulux Mix Lab; and Hampstead Oak Chevrans flooring in Brown, from £134.85 per sq m, Ecora



### KEY FEATURE Stretched ceiling

A stretched ceiling is a type of suspended (or dropped) ceiling made from an eco-friendly PVC fabric that is heated, stretched and clipped into a track fitted on to the room's walls. As well as covering any ceiling flaws, lighting systems, soundproofing, etc, its versatile form means that it can be produced in many colours, prints and shapes (even 3-D), striking the 'ideal balance between functionality and design,' says a spokesperson at PJC Acoustics (barrisol-pjc.com). Each project is different; Sandrine and Hervé paid approx £155 per sq m.

### KEY PRODUCTS



**1** Wood king's castle, £295, Knot Toys **2** Morf acrylic dome pendant, £80, House by John Lewis **3** Sipping Nectar linen bolster, £65, Anna Jacobs **4** Mobileshadows linen partition mobiles, from £83.20 each, Stéphanie Marin for Smarin at Made in Design **5** Versailles Gold Shabby Chic mahogany and marble console table, from £672, The French Bedroom Company **6** Cassis Rose linen duvet cover, from £120; and matching pillowcases, £30 each, The Linen Works **7** Orla polyester double bed in Smoky Grey, £499 (mattress not included), made.com

Research Hannah Franklin Photography (stretched ceiling) Julien Fernandez/Cap Interiors; (paint swatch) Piveleys



# INTERIORS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

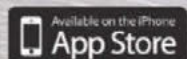
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# *Passion for fashion*

Stylist Scott's Brooklyn home is an ever-evolving mix of eye-catching artwork, childhood mementos and covetable design icons

Photography – Matthew Williams/PHOTOfoyer  
Words – Luke Tebbutt





## Home profile

**THE OWNER** Fashion and interiors stylist Scott Newkirk and his dog Scratch.

**THE PROPERTY** A duplex apartment within an 1820s building in Brooklyn, New York. The ground floor has a hall, kitchen, bathroom and office, while the first floor comprises a living room, bedroom, dressing area and bathroom.

## LIVING ROOM

Scott's classic pieces include a pair of leather Hunting chairs. These sit alongside a cedar and felt day bench Scott designed for his first furniture collection. 'The wood has been charred with a blowtorch, which makes the sap come out and helps accentuate the grain,' he says.

**GET THE LOOK** Source a vintage Hunting chair by Børge Mogensen for Erhard Rasmussen at 1stdibs.com. This is the Burnt day bench. The rug is from ABC Carpet & Home. Find similar at French Connection Home.







## HALL

Scott made the linear pendant lights from brass tubing to echo the industrial-luxe vibe in this space.

**GET THE LOOK** For similar lighting, see the *Nude Hooked* collection at [Buster + Punch](#). *Retrouvius* stocks industrial-style tables like Scott's. The *Platinum Buche* rug is by Madeline Weinrib. The artwork on the left wall is a paper cutout of a burning forest by Anat Litwin. Learn more about her work at [homebaseproject.org](#). The curved MR10 chair by Mies van der Rohe is vintage. Find the MR Collection at [KnollStudio](#).

## LIVING ROOM DETAIL →

Scott takes a layered approach to decorating, grouping together complementary colours or materials, such as this gnarled wood bench, which sits next to a rope artwork and a collage made up of oversized needlepoint.

**GET THE LOOK** For timber furniture like this, visit [Shoreline Driftwood Furniture](#). The large needlepoint artwork on the wall is by Karen Gelardi. The rope sculptures are by Michael Capotosto. Find both artists' work at [newkirkny.com](#).



# 'Change equals excitement,'

says fashion stylist Scott Newkirk. 'I thrive on it, along with impermanence.' And he embraces both with gusto. 'I don't think of myself as confined to one way of thinking, or one job, or one anything – I'm curious and looking around me all the time.'

For proof, take a look around his Brooklyn apartment, where Scott has filled the walls with childhood drawings and artwork by friends. He's also piled flea-market finds on top of a small library's worth of books on the floor, which get moved every so often in an ever-changing furniture dance.

'I don't like spaces that are too finished,' Scott explains. 'The arrangement of pictures on the walls is unplanned – I just started with one nail, then the next. When I did the same for a client, she said to me, "You're not measuring anything!" And I thought, "Way to take the fun out of things..."'

It's easy to understand Scott's zeal for surrounding himself with his belongings, rather than hiding them away. His previous home – a Manhattan studio – was ten times smaller than this one, so he kept his pictures, mementos and covetable furniture in a rented storage unit. He was only able to take stock of them when he moved in here. 'I started unpacking boxes and the space came to life,' he says of the apartment, which was originally a Masonic temple, before becoming a workshop for making movie screens and then a disco in the Seventies. 'Now I walk through my home and it's like walking through an autobiography.'

Scott's intimate approach to his interior is also an antidote to his work as a fashion stylist, where he's guided by other people's visions. 'Styling can be restrictive, so having an apartment where I can be more free is refreshing – and vital,' he says. 'At home, you can really create a story of your life, and how you live it, by what you have and how you present it.'

Thanks to its four-and-a-half-metre-high ceilings and airy vibe, Scott's two-storey apartment feels more like an open-plan townhouse. On the first floor, only a hessian curtain separates the living and sleeping areas. 'I needed something with some depth and texture,' he says of the flowing, floor-to-ceiling drape. 'I've always liked using materials and things that aren't luxurious – and forcing them to be so. When you get such a stretch of hessian in one space, it's pretty awesome.'

This appreciation of natural materials can also be seen in his furniture, which includes gnarled wood seats and old timber blocks used in the construction of Japanese houses, which Scott now employs as side tables in the living room. 'Before I even moved in, I imagined this space would feel like a beautiful Parisian art studio,' he says. 'It wasn't so much a home, but a place where things would be collected, yet that was still comfortable enough to have people drop round.'

And he has plenty of buddies. In fact, along with adding new finds to the décor, one of Scott's favourite things to do in his home is to have friends over. 'It's like sharing this really cool friend you've met with them,' he says. 'You don't know whether they'll get on or not, but you just want them to meet each other.'

After more than 30 years in the fashion industry – and more than two decades living in Manhattan – Scott's Brooklyn home also marks a transition in his personal and professional life. He has started doing more interiors work and recently designed a range of furniture (the day bench is one of his creations). However, he already feels the urge to shake things up at home, potentially with another move sometime in the future. 'I feel a little restless, which some people think of as a negative, but with impermanence comes spontaneity and growth,' he says. 'It's not like I'm looking for something I haven't found, I'm just looking...' To learn more about Scott's interiors work, visit [newkirkny.com](http://newkirkny.com). Check out [art-dept.com](http://art-dept.com) to see his fashion styling portfolio



## HALL DETAIL

Scott has mixed mid-century icons with more offbeat items, such as the low wood chair.

**GET THE LOOK** The Sloop chair and round Meditation stool are by New York-based artisan Jason Lamberth. Find similar at Ethnicraft. The Train Station swing-arm sconce is by Restoration Hardware. Holloways of Ludlow sells similar wall lights. The Wassily armchair by Marcel Breuer is available at Knoll.







## Home truths

*WHAT DOES THE WORLD NEED MORE OF?* Long-term thinking.

*AND LESS OF?* Reality TV. *WHO WOULD YOU LOVE TO BE FOR A DAY?* Picasso.

*WHAT'S YOUR PEARL OF WISDOM?* There's something to be gained in every experience – especially the trying ones.

*WHICH TALENT DO YOU WISH YOU HAD?* To be able to play the piano.

*WHAT HAS GIVEN YOU THE MOST SATISFACTION?* Trusting my instincts.

*IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH YOU HADN'T DONE?*

I have no regrets.



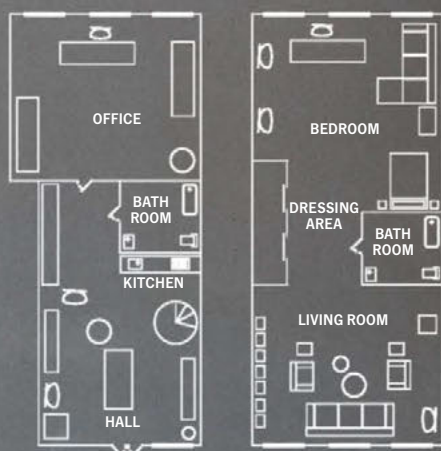
## BEDROOM

Every item in Scott's home has a personal association – from the cashmere curtains made by a friend to the desk from Scott's first furniture collection.

**GET THE LOOK** For luxe window dressings like this, try House Couturier. To source the Cantilevered desk, visit [newkirkny.com](http://newkirkny.com). For vintage ladders like this, check out David Adams Antiques. To find a matching floor lamp, see the Jieldé Signal S1833 at The Conran Shop. The grid of 20 portraits of Scott on the wall is by photographer Dietmar Busse. See his work at [newkirkny.com](http://newkirkny.com). For a table lamp like this, try Circus Antiques.



## The blueprint



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## BEDROOM

The hessian curtains separate this space from the dressing area and living room beyond, but still allow light to filter through.

**GET THE LOOK** The curtains were custom-made with material from Circle Visual in New York. Find hessian fabrics at Whaleys of Bradford. This is Matteo bed linen. Find similar at La Redoute. The bedside table is Indonesian. Lombok sells Far Eastern-inspired pieces like this.





CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT 1944 Swiss Army **bicycle**, £1,200; **bags**, from £225 each; **baubles**, £4.25 each; **crate**, £59; cappuccino **beakers**, £19.50 for a set of four; Royal VKB French stacking **carafe** (includes four tumblers), £18.50; cereal **bowls**, £25 for a set of four; and **chopping boards**, from £34.95 each, all Pedlars



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## IDEAS toSTEAL

*Work a rough-luxe vibe with quality linens, rugged woods and industrial greys*

### KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Oak Classic English Distressed flooring, from £79.85 per sq m, Ecora; Carbon Blue super emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5l, Fired Earth; and Washi 223602 cotton in Linen, £31 per m, Sanderson



### KEY FEATURE Dark high-gloss floor

Staining your floor mahogany is a brave thing to do and many sanders are loath to undertake it as they think the natural beauty of the boards is compromised. And, unless you have big windows like Scott's, it can make a space seem dingy. Going over to the dark side makes a dramatic statement, however, and the addition of a gloss finish will help bounce light around. Find a reputable fitter via ratedpeople.com. 'Expect to pay from £25 per sq m for a good-quality wood stain,' says a spokesperson. 'Budget for three coats, plus labour.'

### KEY PRODUCTS



**1** Star nickel lantern, £594, Vaughan **2** Marshall Stripe lamb's-wool throw in Coal and Linen, £250, Tori Murphy **3** Teku teak stool, £95, Lombok **4** Flax light t.e. 074, £316, Christien Meindertsma for Thomas Eyck at Places and Spaces **5** Linen single flat sheets in Irish Blue, approx £95 each, Merci **6** Vintage Turkish wool rug, £449.92, RetroRugs at Etsy **7** Axel reclaimed wood and steel dining table, from £859, Timothy Oulton at Barker & Stonehouse







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# Blue SWOON

Who says blue is a cold colour?  
Certainly not Claude, who has  
plundered the entire palette for  
her glamorous family home

Photography – Julien Fernandez  
Styling – Amandine Berthon  
Words – Jenny Tucker

## LIVING AREA

The oil painting by Catalan artist Agusti Puig dominates this vast space. The distinct blue tones from the antique Iranian rug are reflected in the paint on the surrounding walls and radiator.

**GET THE LOOK** To see more of Agusti Puig's artwork, go to [agustipuig.net](http://agustipuig.net). The Tufty-Too sofa is by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia. The Bresson coffee table is from Minotti. You can buy similar rugs at Beldi Rugs. Try Orchid for a side table like this.



## Home profile

**THE OWNERS** Claude de Boysson, an interior designer, her husband Jean-Michel, an orthodontist, and their daughter Carla, 13.

**THE PROPERTY** A two-bedroom townhouse, built at the end of the 19th century in Bordeaux, France. On the ground floor, there's an art studio and a self-contained flat and garage. The first floor includes an open-plan living/dining area, kitchen, master en-suite bedroom, Carla's bedroom, bathroom and outside terrace.



## LIVING/DINING AREA

Claude wanted an open-plan living space – somewhere to relax, but also to entertain. Colour is used to zone off the dining area, creating an intimate alcove.

**GET THE LOOK** The Table dining table is by Monica Armani and the Iuta chairs are by Antonio Citterio, all for B&B Italia. The aluminised bronze floor lamp is the KTribe F2 by Philippe Starck for Flos. The armchair is the Metropolitan '14 by Jeffrey Bennett for B&B Italia.





## LIVING AREA

The horizontal fireplace and wood panelling are a clever way to introduce warmth to the cool blue space. Accessorising with tan and gold softens the overall effect.

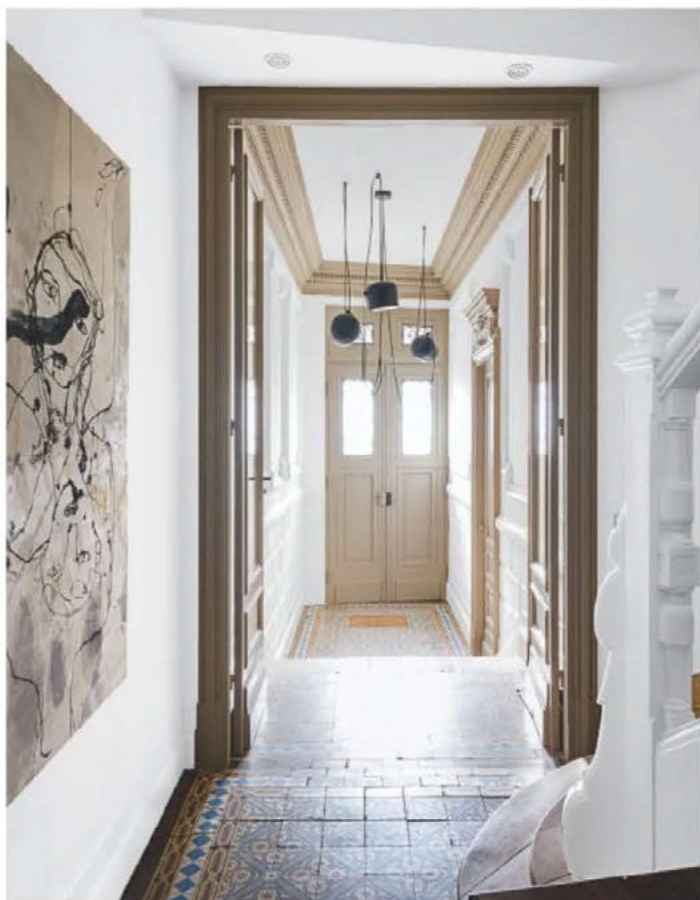
**GET THE LOOK** The Wall Panelling Company sells wood panelling like this. The linen sofa is the Frank sofa by Antonio Citterio from B&B Italia. This is the LC1 chair by Le Corbusier for Cassina. The Gilda floor lamp is by Pallucco.

# Bold and beautiful,

Claude and Jean-Michel de Boysson's exuberant two-bedroom townhouse doesn't hold back. In fact, it's hard to know where to look first when there are so many gorgeous and glorious features to take in in each room. With its hybrid of vintage and modern furniture, expressive art, distinctive accessories and assured use of colour, dominated by the varying tones of blue, every corner of this 19th-century home tells a story. From storm-cloud indigo to sunnier cobalt and fresh turquoise, Claude has replicated the gamut of seasonal skies, choosing to daub them on walls as a dramatic backdrop or dot them here and there for a glint of drama.

Being a painter from a family of artists, Claude has an instinctive understanding of colour and says she drew on those skills as a starting point when renovating this building. 'The rug in the living/dining area is an old Iranian piece that I love. I took that as inspiration for the rest of the decorating,' she says. 'I'd rather have one single colour in the house, changing in shade, than a completely different colour in each room. I feel that when you use tone, it unites the whole thing and is still interesting.'

Even so, Claude is savvy enough to appreciate that an overdose of blue can create a chilly effect. Clever lighting, smatterings of gold and key pieces of furniture in warm woods, such as walnut and teak, not only lighten the mood, but also provide a sumptuous edge to the general feel of things. 'I want our space to be inviting,' she adds. →





**KITCHEN**

A wall of custom-made teak units keeps the area clutter-free, while a bespoke table made from traditional Balinese suar wood is an invitation to relax. The contrasting blues add a touch of fun.

**GET THE LOOK** Try Philip J Beards for similar teak cabinetry. Uhuru sells tables like this. The Fifties chairs by Adrien Audoux and Frida Minet are from flea markets in Saint-Michel in Bordeaux. Find similar at 1stdibs.com. These are the Stchu-Moon pendants by Catellani & Smith, available at Noel Hennessy. The painting is by Alexandre Belay. Try artfinder.com for similar.

← **HALL**

The original tessellated tiles and 19th-century woodwork help to maintain 'the soul of the home' says Claude. But the addition of modern accessories stops the scheme from getting too retro.

**GET THE LOOK** The Aim pendant light is by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Flos. The painting is by Parisian artist Reno. Anna Ilsley does similar work.







## DINING AREA ↑

Claude found the convex mirrors and ceiling light at local flea markets. The candlesticks echo the metallic theme. **GET THE LOOK** For a similar ceiling light and mirrors, go to *Circus Antiques*. The assorted candlesticks and wine glasses are from *Ikea*.

## FIRST-FLOOR LANDING ↗

The vintage Murano wall lamps make a striking statement set against this indigo-blue wall. The cabinet, covered with goatskin, was originally a refrigerated bar created by Italian cabinet-maker Aldo Tura in the Fifties. **GET THE LOOK** Find similar Murano and Aldo Tura pieces at *1stdibs.com*. Try *Circus Antiques* for a lamp like this.

*‘There’s nothing I like more than scouting around flea markets’*



It took two years for Claude and Jean-Michel to find a house that met their brief: ‘We didn’t want a typical Bordeaux property – they tend to be narrow and have loads of floors,’ says Claude. ‘We liked this place as it had the potential for a large living area on the first floor, opening on to a beautiful terrace. It feels more like a big flat than a house.’

Working alongside architect David Hybre, Claude set about reinventing the original layout. The first major step was to remove the restrictive walls. ‘Previously, the house had been rented out, so it was in a very bad state,’ she says. ‘But I knew I wanted to open it all up and flip the layout to put the living area on the terrace side. That meant light and landscape could play a part in the overall character of the place. I can’t tell you how different it made everything feel. Suddenly, it came alive.’

Although the restoration introduced the best of contemporary living, with its swim-a-width bathtub, gargantuan glass-boxed shower and kitchen that veers towards Zen-like simplicity, Claude has still managed to nurture the more traditional elements of her home. ‘We tried to preserve its soul a little,’ she says. ‘We kept the original staircase, the cast-iron radiators and the incredible hallway, with its tiled floor. I like to have a mixture of influences – contrasting the building itself and with the extra bits that go in it.’

Cast an eye over the dazzling mix of trimmings and trinkets and you’ll find an unconventional display of Brazilian and Scandinavian pieces alongside vintage finds. ‘I’m always on the lookout for anything unusual,’ says Claude with a smile. ‘There’s nothing I like more than scouting around a flea market. The mirrors hanging opposite the dining table come from a Saint-Ouen market. They are so unusual and originally from an Eighties hotel. Fabulous!’

But, above all, Claude feels her home opens its arms to her family – whatever the weather, whatever the time of year. ‘It just works on every level,’ she says. ‘In summer, we rarely close the glass doors, so we can enjoy the extra expanse of the terrace. Then, during the winter, we light a fire, get cosy and retreat into the sanctuary of this amazing place. It’s our haven.’

See Claude’s work at *agencecouleur-nuovo.com*. Learn more about architect David Hybre at *hybre-architecte.com*



## MASTER BEDROOM

The emphasis here is on glamorous luxury. With its silky carpeting, glass partitions and oversized stone bath, the space feels more boudoir than bedroom.

**GET THE LOOK** This is the Charles bed by Antonio Citterio for B&B Italia. The Chouchin pendant lights are by Foscarini, available at Aram Store. The Louis XVI-style writing desk is a family heirloom. Find similar at Ralph Lauren Home. For a statement bath like this, go to Aston Matthews. For an almost-black wall paint like this, try Farrow & Ball's Railings estate emulsion.

## Home truths

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING?** I'm addicted to cowboy boots – *santiags* in French. I wear them all year round, even in summer.

**IF YOU WERE AN ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?** A chameleon, for its ability to change colour – it would certainly make life interesting.

**WHAT PROJECTS DO YOU HAVE LINED UP FOR 2015?** There are a few in the pipeline, like the restoration of a wine château near Bordeaux – I'm very much looking forward to that.

**PLANNING ANY TRAVEL?** We went to Asia – Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia – for the first time three years ago and now it's our favourite place to discover exotic, wild areas without tourists.

**ANY PERSONAL GOALS?** I'd like to give kite-boarding a go. My husband learnt last year and the best thing about it is that you get to practise in magical places, like the isolated beaches in northern Brazil.

**DO YOU THINK THERE IS A SECRET TO LIFE?** For me, happiness is in seeking out beauty in the things I work with – paintings, colours, fabrics, lovely old objects – you could say that's the key to my contentment.





## MASTER EN SUITE

This stunning bespoke glass shower enclosure, with its floor-to-ceiling marble wall, is a real show-stopper.

**GET THE LOOK** Fired Earth has an extensive range of slate floor tiles. For marble slabs, try The Marble Store. The washstand is from Sanijura. For a shower unit like this, try CP Hart.



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## IDEAS toSTEAL

*Highlight those blue hues with natural textures and warm, golden brown accents*

### KEY SURFACES



FROM LEFT Oak Brendon brushed engineered **flooring** in White, from £92.22 per sq m, Ecora; Bamiyan Blue **super emulsion**, £41.50 for 2.5l, Fired Earth; and Marron honed marble **tile**, £94.97 per sq m, Mandarin Stone



### KEY FEATURE Glass partition wall

Claude embraces the flow of rooms – not just in the living/dining area, but also in the master bedroom suite. The glass partition separating the bathroom from the sleep area makes the layout feel open plan, but at the same time subtly zones off each space. It also lets through the light from the bedroom windows, making the en suite appear larger and more luxurious. The combo of neutral floor tiles and rug helps the spaces merge seamlessly. CP Hart (cphart.co.uk) has partitions like this for approx £825, plus VAT and labour.

### KEY PRODUCTS



**1** Lempicka metal **screen** in Antique Gold, £785, Oka **2** Brass **pendant**, £99, Atkin and Thyme **3** Imola leather **chair**, £3,675, BoConcept **4** Taper **candle holder**, £8, Sainsbury's **5** Ethnic Triangles **vase**, £34, Holly's House **6** Wool **rug**, £380, French Connection Home **7** Fredd **double bed**, £395 (mattress not included), Habitat



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# DESIGN

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## STYLE CLASSIC

*Shaker kitchen*

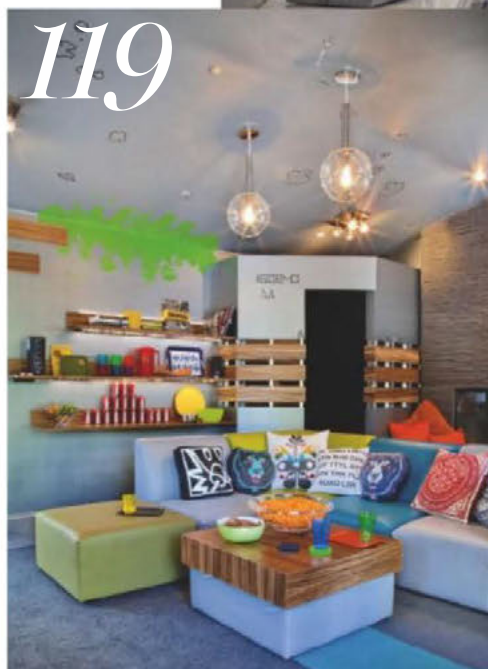


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# Productetc

## Kitchens and bathrooms

EDITED BY CHARLOTTE LUXFORD



### Urban flavour

The materials mash-up trend is still going strong for 2015 and this Ariel kitchen from Cesar ([cesar.it](http://cesar.it)) is right on it. It looks the part, with Smoky Grey melamine and Sherwood oak fronts attached to lightweight aluminium frames. It's also available in an eco-gloss finish that comes in six colours. *From approx. £140.50 for a base unit* ([espressodesign.co.uk](http://espressodesign.co.uk))

### WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT?

Laminate expert Quick-Step has just launched its Impressive Ultra range, an innovative waterproof floor that can even be used in your wet room. Check out this Scandi-style Natural Pine finish. *£27.99 per sq m* ([quick-step.co.uk](http://quick-step.co.uk))



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LOVES

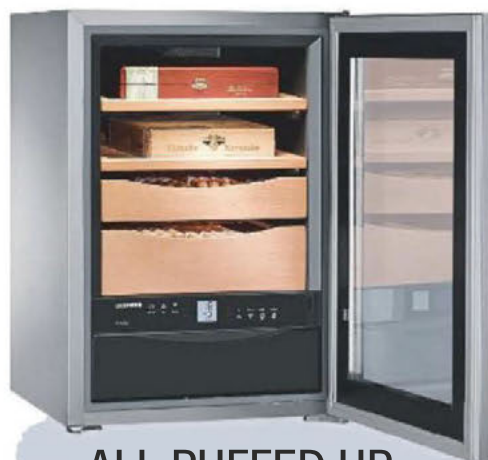
### HIGH AND DRY

If you've always fancied a dramatic chandelier in your bathroom, but worried about the practicalities, this stylish Torcello S18 pendant from Masiero is the answer. It's rated IP65 (Ingress Protection), meaning it is completely water- and dust-resistant. *£2,808* ([cephart.co.uk](http://cephart.co.uk))



### Stand out

Forget bulky pedestals – this Gus ceramic and metal washstand by Michael Hilgers for design collective Ext is trim and sleek. To avoid the 'showroom' look, mix with other modern accessories and mismatched furniture. *£825* ([milkconceptboutique.com](http://milkconceptboutique.com))



### ALL PUFFED UP

Still mulling over gift ideas for the person who has everything? Then Liebherr's ZKes 453 electronic cigar humidor could be just the ticket. This stainless-steel appliance has adjustable temperature and humidity controls, with a Spanish cedar wood interior for keeping cigars in tiptop condition. It can also be paired with Liebherr's matching WKes 653 GrandCru wine cabinet if you're feeling ultra-extravagant... *£2,200* ([myliebherr.co.uk](http://myliebherr.co.uk))

### DRIPPING IN STYLE

For hardware that's a bit trendier than your average chrome number, take a look at new kid on the block Watermark. The brand's gorgeous, industrial-style fittings tap into the current craze for luxury materials and simple, sharp design. The Zen range comes in this beautiful copper and marble mix. *From £748.80* ([thewatermarkcollection.co.uk](http://thewatermarkcollection.co.uk))





# Productetc

## Lifestyle and tech

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### Blinding idea

If you're looking for fuss-free window dressings, app-controlled blinds could be a lifesaver. QMotion Shades come up to three-metres wide and are controlled by smartphone. You pull the blinds up and down by sliding your finger against a nifty window graphic on your screen. **From £674 each, including fabric** ([qmotionshades.co.uk](http://qmotionshades.co.uk))



### SMALL AND MIGHTY

These cute wireless speakers from boutique audio company Moss are finished by hand and crafted from high-quality acrylic rather than the usual plastic. Available in five cool colours, they're also water-resistant and compatible with all devices. **Approx £74 each** ([mossaudio.com](http://mossaudio.com))

### SUCK IT UP

Streamline your vacuuming and go for this compact model from Bosch. The Athlet's not only a looker – it has all the power of a standard vacuum cleaner. It's also light (3kg), cordless and has a 360-degree nozzle joint enabling you to get into those awkward corners. **£289.99** ([bosch-home.co.uk](http://bosch-home.co.uk))



### Finger talk

More than just a piece of jewellery, this Kovert Designs ring vibrates when you receive a message from your phone or tablet. Available in three metal finishes and two ceramic-stone options. **From £290** ([net-a-porter.com](http://net-a-porter.com))



### Livingetc LOVES

### LIGHT FANTASTIC

This smart-looking Green Light by Finnish designer Linda Bergroth for Kekkila uses the optimal wavelength of light to give your herbs, salad leaves and seedlings a helping hand through the dark winter months. Plus, it has an adjustable head and a water tray to catch any spills. **Approx £127** ([finnishdesignshop.com](http://finnishdesignshop.com))



### WOOF! WOOF!

Pimp your pet's crib with this fab-looking Padpod, which is more of a design classic than a sorry-looking beanbag. It comes in green, pink or this blue as standard, or go bespoke and choose from 22 other colours, plus a duck down or memory foam cushion pad if you're feeling flush. **From £595** ([barkandmiao.com](http://barkandmiao.com))

**ALSO THIS MONTH...** Stationery stylistas will love Moleskine's Livescribe notebooks, which turn handwriting hi tech. Transfer notes and illustrations from paper to screen using a Bluetooth-compatible smartpen and linked app. **Approx £18** – smartpens sold separately – ([moleskine.com](http://moleskine.com))



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A LIFE IN DESIGN

## NICKY HASLAM

The darling of interior design on decorating for the stars, his dislike of 'cheap Italian hotels' and why he's ditched nightclubs in favour of writing

Interview – Charlotte Luxford

FROM LEFT Winter Wheat linen in Thatched Roof Taupe, £167.60 per m, Nicky Haslam for Turnell & Gigon; Nicky in his Holland Park studio; the entrance to musician Nellee Hooper's home – an example of Nicky's classic style; and Sea Fern linen in Green Olive, £167.60 per m, Nicky Haslam for Turnell & Gigon



andy, author, cabaret performer, man about town, watercolourist, columnist and one-time thoroughbred horse breeder, interior designer Nicky Haslam is the consummate modern Renaissance man. He's rubbed shoulders with both royalty and rock stars, worked on US *Vogue* with Diane Vreeland and once employed Cath Kidston. Having created interiors for The Dorchester, Cartier, Charles Saatchi and various Rolling Stones, unsurprisingly, his appetite for life is insatiable...

#### How did you get into interior design?

When I was young, there were no interior-design schools, you just joined an antiques shop and learnt it by pinning up mauve curtains with an old lady! You could say doing up my room at Eton was the start of it. I decorated it with an ostrich-plume pelmet and a fake grass carpet that I'd bought from a flower seller in Eaton Square. I've actually got a similar grass carpet

now in my flat in London! But, really, it was just doing bits for myself and then working for friends and so on.

#### You worked in the magazine industry before you became a designer. How did that come about?

I was going to start a nightclub in London and the man putting the money in said I ought to see what the clubs were like in New York. So I went to America with David [Bailey] and Jean [Shrimpton] and it turned out I was offered this wonderful job in *Vogue*'s art department – and I didn't come back for 11 years! Diana Vreeland was made editor not long after I joined and became an instant friend – she encouraged me to do this magazine on my own called *Show*. I worked with Diane Arbus, Richard Avedon, David Bailey – all those great photographers. David was my closest friend at the time, he was amazing. So beautiful – and inventive.

#### You were also friends with lots of designers – did they influence your work?

David Hicks's geometrics were inspiring, but I've only





ever ripped off one other decorator and that's US designer Stephen Sills – he's got such wonderful style.

## **How would you describe your own style?**

No good decorator has a set look, they adapt. I've got a signature rather than a style – I'm sort of fearless and I like to surprise. I think it's important to make rooms that people look wonderful in. That's the whole point of decorating – to make people look pretty.

## **Are there any interiors styles you don't like?**

People seem obsessed with the Fifties at the moment, which just makes me think of all that terrible stuff you'd find in cheap Italian hotels. They always had lamp shades made from parchment paper. Don't get me wrong, good Thirties or Fifties stuff – such as pieces by Jean-Michel Frank and Giò Ponti – is great.

## **Which modern designers do you admire?**

The work of Veere Grenney is very nice. Also, my former assistant Beata Heuman. I think it's becoming easier to design because there's a trend for more liberal interiors.

## **Do you have any design rules?**

Avoid clichés – don't automatically fill in either side of a fireplace with bookshelves – put them in corners to give the room a different shape. You can make a room look higher by painting the edge of the cornicing inside the ceiling – height is important. Also, don't have white ceilings...

I mean, if you have to, go for off-white.

## **Any other tips about colour?**

I like doing the floor the same hue as the walls and the ceiling. My favourite colour is one I call ashes of lilac – a lovely grey, brown, mauvy hue. Strangely enough, Elastoplast is a fantastic colour. My country home is basically painted in that brown-pink tone – it's very flattering.

## **What about pattern?**

When you say pattern, I think of checks or flowers, which is very Nina Campbell. I'm not so keen on that, but whatever you do, you don't need matching patterns – it should all be a surprise. Bernard Thorp has wonderful designs, but you can find fun fabrics rifling through Indian shops – Southall Market's a riot for that.

## **You recently redecorated your London apartment – what's it like?**

I wanted it to look undecorated in a funny sort of way. I only bought two new bits – a big chandelier and my sofa man made me a bespoke piece – otherwise I just used the stuff I'd had in storage for years. I didn't want anything too precious.

## **What's been your most memorable project?**

I've done work for Ringo Starr, Bryan Ferry, Rupert Everett, Mick Jagger, so many – Mick has wonderful taste, a great eye for objects. But the project I loved most was probably former financier Natasha Kagalovsky's home on the King's Road – she was such a wonderful person to work for. I often think it's the client that makes the project.

## **And the best moments in your career?**

Seeing my first project in *Vogue* was very exciting and being able to employ such great photographers was fabulous. I've got a photo that Diane Arbus gave me that's worth megabucks, which is a step in the right direction – especially after selling my Andy Warhol when I was broke in the Seventies!

## **Do you still enjoy a good party?**

I don't really go out much. I write quite a lot – I do a diary piece for *The Spectator* each week and I always have something on the go.

Find out more about Nicky's work at [nh-design.co.uk](http://nh-design.co.uk)



*'It's important to make rooms that people look wonderful in. That's the whole point of decorating'*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Gothic wood side table in Original, £525, Nicky Haslam for Oka; the hallway in Nicky's London flat; *A Designer's Life: an Archive of Inspired Design and Décor* by Nicky Haslam, £50, Jacqui Small Publishing; velvet and lacquered-wood bed, from £12,470, Nicky Haslam for Savoir Beds at Harrods; Nicky's Deco-influenced design for a New York apartment; and one of his watercolours outlining the look of a living room



Photography (Nicky's hall) NH Design Archive; (book) Pixeleyes; (New York apartment) Simon Upton © Jacqui Small; (Nicky's living room) Simon Upton/The Interior Archive



MAIN PICTURE The sitting room in Nicky's London flat – the bespoke Giacometti-style light fitting was custom-made to Nicky's design by Ian Bishop. BACKGROUND Block Zig Zag linen in Blue Heaven, £91.40 per m, Bernard Thorp





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INSPIRATION gallery

# Decorations *deconstructed*

*Ditch tradition this year and deck some unexpected spaces with real impact*

## WRAP IT UP

Greet your guests on Christmas Day with the front door wrapped in a festively bright or patterned fabric – this showy first impression beats the classic wreath-and-fairy-lights combo hands down.

**GET THE LOOK** The door is wrapped in Arietta taffeta in Pimento, £40 per m, Designers Guild. The gift boxes, £24 for a set of ten, are from DZD.

ChristmasTimeUK sells gift sacks like this for £6.50. The door is painted in Stone Blue exterior eggshell, £56 for 2.5l, Farrow & Ball.

Words – Charlotte Luxford  
Picture research – Nicola Rowe





## SHAPE SHIFTER ↑

Why not turn your shelves into a cool space to display your gifts by marking out a festive shape with ribbon or Washi tape? Stick to a limited colour palette and pile up your presents for impact. It's a neat idea if you don't want a traditional tree cluttering up your room.

**GET THE LOOK** This is French grosgrain ribbon, £8 per m, at Samuel & Sons. Find Washi tape at Paperchase. The walls and shelves are painted in Deep Space Blue intelligent matt emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5l, Little Greene. The gift ribbons and tissue papers, all from £1.50 each, are from Paperchase.

## ONWARDS AND UPWARDS →

While the banister may be the obvious choice for a garland, try trailing your festive foliage and brightly wrapped gifts up the treads instead.

**GET THE LOOK** Tregothnan has fresh garlands, from £6.70 per 1.2m. Paperchase sells similar bright metallic wrapping paper to this, £3 per 2m roll.

## RETRO MASH-UP ↓

Baubles shouldn't only belong on trees – give a hallway chandelier or pendant a witty makeover using kitsch decorations. If you prefer something more minimalist, stick to simple neon decs for an edgy look.

**GET THE LOOK** Maison Artefact sells similar antique Italian chandeliers to this one. Paperchase has a wide range of kitsch decorations like these, from £6.50 each. The Contemporary Home also stocks retro glass baubles, from £5 each.





## IN THE FRAME

Windows make a great backdrop for an imaginative Christmas display. Take advantage of spaces that are free from blinds and create a curtain of lights or baubles instead. Be generous for maximum impact.

**GET THE LOOK** Use a variety of matt and shiny baubles, from £7.14 for a pack of 24, at DZD, for a similar display. For giant baubles like these, try iridescent foil balls, £10.20 for a set of six 40cm balls, at DZD. Find the Tom Dixon Wingback cotton-mix armchair, £4,900; and footstool, £2,075, at Utility.







## ← BRANCH OUT

Try positioning a tree somewhere more interesting than the corner of the living room, or dot trees of various sizes around the house for an element of surprise. You could even leave a present underneath each one and set up a treasure hunt for the little ones. Keep the look fuss-free by using a simple star topper and hessian sacking to cover the pot.

**GET THE LOOK** Hen & Hammock stocks hessian sacks, £4 for a pack of two. For a similar 3ft tree, try Pines and Needles' Nordmann fir, £33.95. For a star tree topper like this, try Gisela Graham's Gold Wire Twig & Pearl star, £16, at ChristmasTimeUK.

## SHED CHIC ↓

Glam up an outbuilding or garden shed with a creative display of fairy lights. If you have a view of the garden through bi-fold doors or a window, it'll add a great backdrop for when you're entertaining in the evening.

**GET THE LOOK** For similar lights, try 80 LED Warm White connectable fairy lights, £19.99, lights4fun.co.uk. For a black wood finish, try Cuprinol's Garden Shades wood stain in Black Ash, £22 for 2.5l, B&Q.



Photography (this page, from top) Marie Delice Karlsson Styling Helena Strauss and Marie Delice Karlsson Photography Lykke Foged and Morten Holtum





## REACH FOR THE STARS

Transform your hallway from an uninspiring dumping ground into a starry wonderland. Supplement your usual lighting with strings of fairy lights and wrap them around architectural features and mirrors to reflect the light. You can even make a feature out of bulkier items that you'd like to hide but don't have the space for, such as a bike.

**GET THE LOOK** The Minut pendant lamps, from £20 each; the Stockholm table lamp, £110; the Henriksdal chair with linen-mix cover, £80; and the Stråla pendant lamp star, £10, are all from Ikea. For fairy lights like these, try the Kilometer LED lighting chains, from £14 each, at Ikea.



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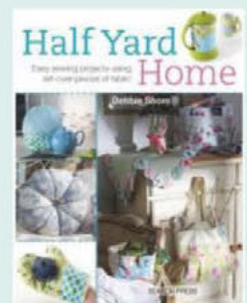
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# NEW WAYS WITH KIDS' ROOMS

*Let your inner child run riot with these inspiring ideas for youngsters' spaces*

Words – Charlotte Luxford  
Picture research – Nicola Rowe

## NURSERIES

*Bring up the tiny tots in a style they deserve*

**EXPERT TIP** 'If you're tight on space, don't feel you need to have a changing table, as they become redundant sooner than you might imagine,' says Amanda Short, founder of modern kids' boutique Nubie. 'You should avoid placing the cot too close to the bedroom door, so the child is not disrupted by noise. Also, ensure the cot is near a socket in order to plug in a baby monitor and night light.'

'Colour-wise,' adds Short, 'block

shades such as poppy red, orange and blue are making a big comeback in the world of nursery décor.'

**DESIGN KNOW-HOW** Babies sleep better in rooms that are really dark, so try a mid-tone palette and invest in blackout blinds. Additionally, use VOC-free paint from companies such as Ecos Organic Paints or Earthborn.

**LITTLE BLACK BOOK** For modern nursery furniture, try Lullabuy, Nubie or check out the new M&S baby range.

### ALPHABET PROJECT

'The client loved the early Fifties alphabet wallpaper, so the room was built up around that,' says US interior designer Benjamin Cruz. *Alphabet wallpaper in Turquoise on White, approx £70 per linear m, Alexander Girard for Maharam. This is the Sparrow cot bed in Grey, £541, Oeuf at Mood. To re-create this entire project would cost from approx £2,500 to £3,500.*



## ANIMAL PROJECT ↓

'This nursery was inspired by the things I love most about spring,' says Sharon Montrose, founder of The Animal Print Shop. 'I found the wallpaper first, fell in love with it and it set the tone for the rest of the room.' She tied the scheme together with bright woodwork and a paler paint colour on the ceiling.

For a similar wallpaper, see *Early Birds*, £61.50 per 10m roll, Brian Yates. These Lamb, Baby Deer and Baby Kangaroo prints are from the *Little Darlings* collection at The Animal Print Shop. They cost from approx £15 each unframed; and from £56 framed.



## COLOUR PROJECT ↑

'This scheme was based on the fabric used for the blanket,' says Megan Leith-Menard, founder of Canadian interior design company FreshHouse. 'I didn't want it to look too "matchy-matchy", so I brought lots of different shades into the room, while keeping lilac and coral central to the scheme.'

The cot blanket was made in Amy Butler's Love cotton in Sandlewood/Tangerine, £5.44 per 0.9m, HootFabrics at Etsy. For paper lanterns and decorations like these, visit Talking Tables.



## ARTFUL PROJECT

'With three young children in the house, it felt like a natural decision to include some elements that would appeal to them,' says James Pannekoecke, owner of Australian practice Concrete Architecture. 'The chalkboard wall was an eye-catching and inexpensive way of adding a fun element to the room and their friends love writing on it when they come round to play.'

*Laura Ashley's Kids water-based chalkboard paint, £10.50 for 750ml, could re-create the look. For a modern cot like this, see the Greenwich crib, £392, Hugs Factory at [myitalianliving.com](http://myitalianliving.com).*





# KIDS

*Give young children a room of their own*

**EXPERT TIP** 'A young child spends around 40 per cent of its time asleep, so choosing an appropriate bed is essential,' says Dan Wade, managing director at Feather & Black. 'For toddlers, a small cot with a side rail works best. As a first bed, a single 3ft unit is generally ideal.'

**TRICK OF THE TRADE** Longevity is key when designing a kid's room. Initially, they won't need much wardrobe space, so create a tall, deep storage unit with removable shelves for toys and games, which can be turned into hanging space later on. While decorative details such as a painted mural are a nice touch, wall stickers are ideal for a quick and easy update. Try Ferm Living, Bouf and Spin Collective for cool designs.

**LITTLE BLACK BOOK** For bespoke pieces and furniture ranges, try Barbara Genda, Aspace and Room to Grow. Olive Loves Alfie, Great Little Rooms and Bobo Kids have fab accessories to complete the scheme.

## BOY/GIRL PROJECT

'The client wanted a neutral palette that would be fitting for both her little girl and the baby boy that was on the way,' says Chelsea Reale, interior designer at US firm Sissy+Marley. 'We chose warm shades of grey and metallic silver to keep it gender neutral.'

*The Lucky Star wallpaper in Silver Metallic, approx £106 per 4.57m roll, is by Sissy+Marley at Jill Malek. Try Patternology Metallic Stars wall stickers for a similar look, £14 for a pack of 31, Mamas & Papas.*





### ENCLOSED PROJECT

'The client wanted to turn the space into a small world for his two young girls to play,' says Adriana Benguela of Brazilian design firm Rosenbaum. 'So we created a suspended bed with two mattresses, which also allowed for the inclusion of a desk. The wallpaper – grown-up girls' flowers with a psychedelic touch – was created by the Rosenbaum team.'

*Barbara Genda could design a similar bed and desk solution for approx £2,400.*

### BESPOKE PROJECT →

'We thought that a hand-painted mural would be more suitable for this room than wallpaper,' says Elena Frampton, creative director of US interior design firm Curated. 'The light fixture was selected to create a more intimate sense of scale in this rather tall space.'

*The Akari Light Sculpture lantern is by Isamu Noguchi for Vitra (this model is not available in the UK). See the similar Akari 45X pendant at The Conran Shop, £220. The rug is by Madeline Weinrib.*

### RECLAMATION PROJECT ↗

'The bedroom is relatively small, so I wanted it to be cosy, warm and calm,' says Linda Sätterström, homeowner and founder of Swedish design company Elodie Details. 'The frame is built from an old children's bed we bought second hand for approx £40.'

*For a similar pink wallpaper, see the Tiny Tots range by Galerie at Wallpaper Direct, £19.96 per 10m roll. Try Vertigo Interiors for an artichoke-style pendant, £199.99.*



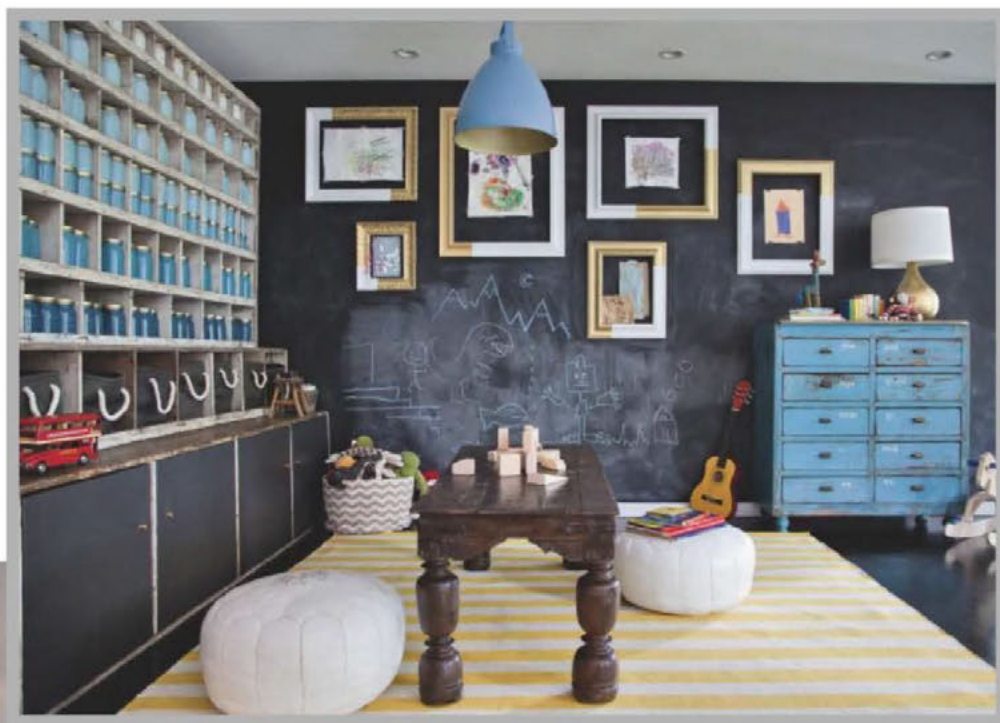


# PLAY ROOMS

*A well-planned space will keep clutter at bay*

**EXPERT TIP** 'Zone off certain areas for specific needs,' says Ursula Wesselingh, owner of interior design company Room to Bloom. 'Create a crafting area with a long shelf against a wall or under a window, but keep storage for supplies nearby – an architect's plan chest is perfect. A tepee or playhouse can give smaller children their own little secret space.'

**DESIGN KNOW-HOW** Make sure the flooring is hard-wearing, with a rug laid down to cushion small knees. Also consider where you place the play area, as toddlers will want to be near you. **LITTLE BLACK BOOK** Allmodern.co.uk has some cool playhouses, including the unusual Kyoto Indoor Playhouse, £571.23.



## ADAPTABLE PROJECT ↑

'The idea was to create a space that belonged to the kids, but wasn't separate from the rest of the house,' says Eric Olsen of California-based Eric Olsen Design. 'This area is plumbed for a bar, so eventually it will revert to an entertainment hub and the chalkboard wall and vintage storage unit will remain, but function in a more adult way.'

Try *Retrouvius* for reclaimed shop fittings. *Alexander & Pearl* has an industrial-style chest, £475.

## ← FUTURE-PROOF

'The parents wanted to turn their pool house into a hip place where their teenage son could bring his friends,' says Kristy Kropat of San Diego's Kropat Interior Design. 'A temporary wall hides the original kitchenette and makes a fun architectural detail. But the kitchen remains intact, so the family can still use it if they wish.'

Expect to pay from £12,000 to create a similar space. Find colourful modular seating like this at *Habitat*, from £265 per unit.





## SPACE-SAVING PROJECT

'Initially, we had trouble trying to determine an appropriate use for the awkward area under the stairs,' says Dave Spolnik, founder of Canadian architectural design company Sprout Studios. 'The owners, being relatively new parents, came up with the play-space idea, which suited their lifestyle perfectly and fits the floor plan like a dream.'

*Re-create the look with Ikea's Kritter chairs in primary colours, £10 each; and Kritter table, £22.*





# SHARING

*Clever design with individual touches will prevent sibling rivalry*

**EXPERT TIP** 'Your children are likely to be into different things, so select a neutral furniture range that you and the kids can put your own personal stamp on,' says Christopher Lusty, managing director of Aspace.

'Backless shelving units are a great way of zoning off areas for different activities (homework, play and sleep),

while also providing an independent space for each child.'

**TRICK OF THE TRADE** Bunk beds are an obvious solution to sharing, but make them more personal to each child so they have their own territory. Recessed shelving units for their favourite books or toys and their own mini reading light will help. In addition,

let them get creative when decorating these areas and give them a choice of bedding so they can select their own for each bunk.

**LITTLE BLACK BOOK** As well as two beds, Space Saving Beds's Funky Bunk solution includes an integrated wardrobe, desk and storage space.



## HIGH/LOW PROJECT

'In this room, a funky bunk-bed system has been cleverly designed to not only look fun, but also to house plenty of storage,' says Almas Shamsee, founder of Maisha Design, of this project by Cape Town-based Antoni Associates. 'Although sharing, each child has their individual section of the room.'

*Almas estimates the bespoke bunk bed would cost approx £2,500 to re-create. This Alex Toys' Artist Studio desk and bench set, £263.99, is available on Amazon.*



### TWIN PROJECT

'I wanted to make the best use of the existing alcove that was long and skinny,' says designer Lisa Sherry, of US company Lisa Sherry Interieurs. 'The space was ideal for recessed bunks and the roofline made it feel cosier and interesting. The stairs running up the middle made the space far more special, as ladders can look a bit clumsy.'

*Find a skilled craftsman to replicate this look via [ratedpeople.com](http://ratedpeople.com). Buy a smaller reproduction of this Southdown poster, approx £5, at [A Slice in Time](http://A Slice in Time) on eBay.*



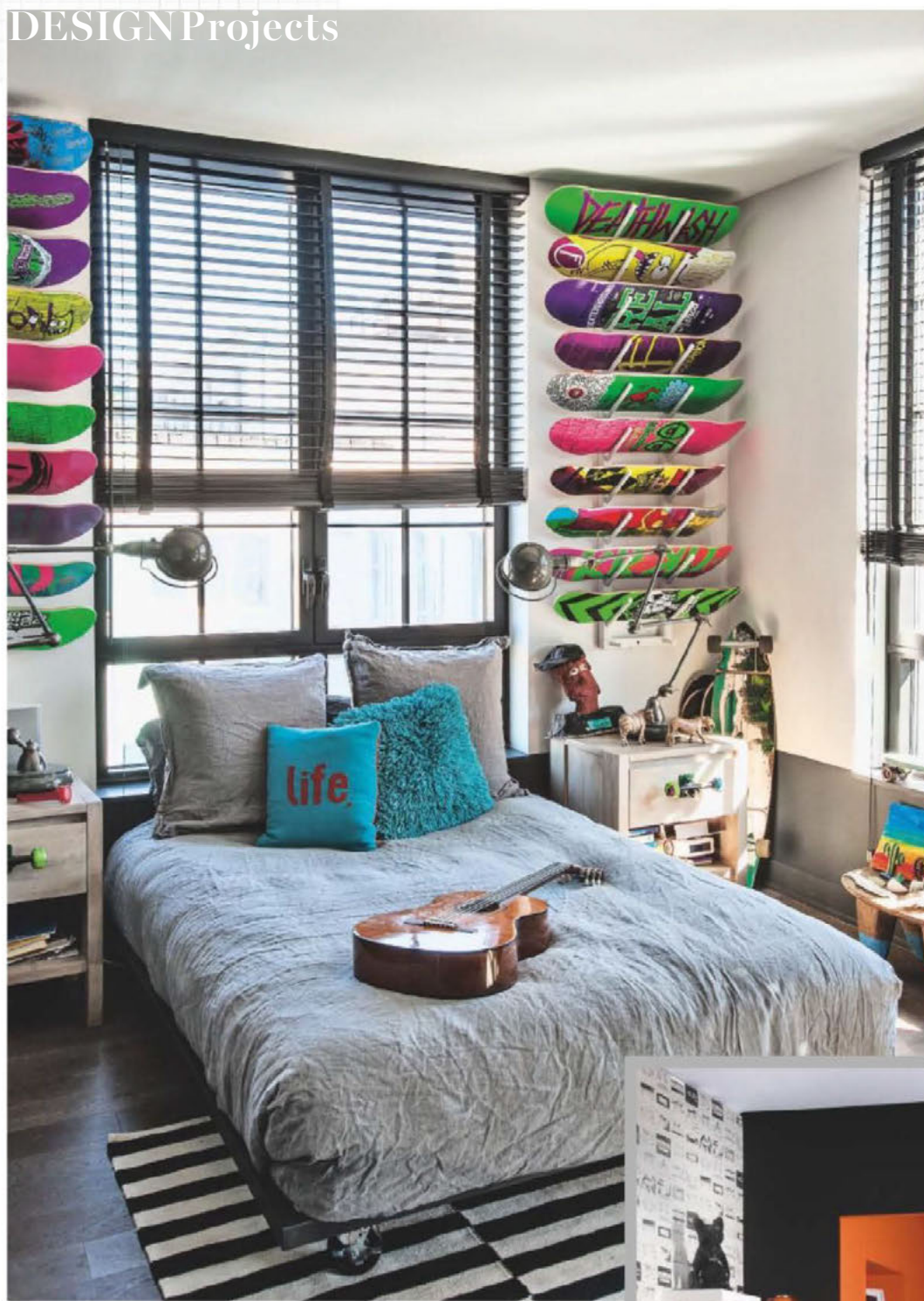
### FLEXIBLE PROJECT

This monochrome scheme is suitable for both a toddler and an older child. It's sophisticated, but softened with the use of playful graphic patterns and the odd pop of colour.

*Both the cot and the bed are dressed with cushions including knitted designs by Scottish designer Donna Wilson, from £37.50 each. The cot features Gran bedding from Fine Little Day, approx £57 for a crib-size duvet cover and pillow set.*







### DISPLAY PROJECT ↑

'My son Jivan is obsessed with skateboarding, so we logged on to a website and chose 20 boards in eye-catching colours to decorate the walls of his room,' says homeowner, interior designer and blogger Athena Calderone.

The skateboards are from Warehouse Skateboards – decks costs from approx £15. For a similar table lamp, see the Jieldé Signal ZigZag in brushed stainless steel, £355, Holloways of Ludlow.

### ALCOVE PROJECT →

'This is a fun way of dealing with limited space, which often fills up with mess and clutter,' says interior stylist Sophie Robinson. 'By building a bed base within an alcove, you create a handy nook that can be used both as a sleeping area and a snug for hanging out with friends or watching TV.'

The walls are painted in Charlotte's Locks and Pitch Black estate emulsions, £36 for 2.5l each, Farrow & Ball. This is C-60 wallpaper in Snow, £45 per 10m roll, Mini Moderns.

## TEENS

*Be bold and bring their personality to the fore*

**EXPERT TIP** 'The best way to design a teenager's bedroom is to use humour, colour and style to provide an edgy, urban and individual space,' says Clare Pascoe, owner of Pascoe Interiors in Sussex. 'Visit scrap yards, look into recycled products and consider getting in a graffiti artist to create a bespoke mural. Ensure you give them a budget to stick to, which will focus their creativity.'

**DESIGN KNOW-HOW** Homework will seem like the bane of their lives (and yours), so help them to create a work space that's inspiring as well as functional. Encourage their artistic side with moodboards, pinboards and maps, plus display any awards, photos or favourite books to make it more inviting. Ensure there's good task lighting and plenty of storage. Create a separate chill-out zone in the room, so it doesn't feel like they're only in the space for working and sleeping.

**LITTLE BLACK BOOK** Go Modern has a great range of modular furniture. Try House Doctor and Urban Outfitters for smaller statement pieces.





## OFFBEAT PROJECT

'The child's mother had a trapeze in her room as a kid and requested one for her daughter,' say Taryn Christoff of New York-based Christoff: Finio Architecture. 'It came from a circus equipment supplier – it wasn't that difficult to install, but did require serious blocking in the ceiling to support the weight.'

*Try Firetoys for circus equipment such as a trapeze – a static model starts at £174. This is the FL/Y pendant in Fuchsia Pink, £165, by Ferruccio Laviani for Kartell. The bed is by Blu Dot – create a similar look by using the Dodu Full bed frame, approx £930, and two separate mattresses.*





# ASK A DESIGNER

In need of decorating advice? Trying to find a particular product? Our design guru is here to help



**MARK GARSIDE** has been designing and manufacturing unusual bespoke furniture and interior fittings for many years. His recent work includes furniture for an advertising agency, flat-pack exhibition stands for a charity and a range of luxury tables. Email your design dilemmas to Mark at [etc@markgarside.com](mailto:etc@markgarside.com) and he will answer as many as he can.

**Q** I'm searching for a floor covering that's a little bit different. I'm not a huge fan of standard carpets or rugs and I'm not keen on plain wood or cold tiled floors either. I'm looking for something coloured or patterned with texture that really adds something special to a space. Do you have any thoughts on where I could find a suitable product?

**Joseph, Hatfield**

**A** Why not try a fantastic modern textile alternative by Bolon? They have the kind of simple woven finish architects favour for an über-slick look. The range comes in a variety of hues and patterns, either on a roll, in tiles or planks, which you can arrange any way you want. Check out the new Silence collection, from approx £70 per sq m, from Flooring Concepts ([flooring-concepts.co.uk](http://flooring-concepts.co.uk)).

**Q** As a New Year's resolution, my husband has promised to sort out our garden and make it the oasis of tranquillity we've been dreaming of. To start off, I'd like to get some preliminary help with the design, but I'm not sure who to talk to first. Any suggestions would be fantastic.

**Kasia, Manchester**

**A** You might want to try Garden Story ([gardenstory.com](http://gardenstory.com)). It's an online professional design service that provides 3-D garden designs, complete with shopping lists, quantities of building material and all the planting required. From approx £117, it's a small price to pay to get you up and running. There are also plenty of inspiring gardens to look at and get the creative juices flowing...

**Q** We're hosting a big New Year's Eve party this year and we're looking for something unique to serve drinks and nibbles on. I know it's a tough ask, but any ideas?

**Alison, Colchester**

**A** What could be more suitable for a celebratory style than a Giant Champagne Cork table? See XL Cork's ([xlork.com](http://xlork.com)) range of stools and side tables for something different this party season – the Wire Cage version, right, costs £150.

**Q** I need to make a smallish, walk-in wardrobe with sliding doors, but my £500 budget



What a corker! XL Cork has a great selection of furniture inspired by, er, cork



A combination of portrait and landscape planks from Bolon's new Silence collection gives a space a dynamic element

doesn't stretch to getting in a professional. Where can I buy a kit to build something myself?

**Brahma, Nottingham**

**A** Screwfix ([screwfix.com](http://screwfix.com)) has a pretty good kit system that's straightforward to work with. You can specify bespoke sizes online to fit any aperture you've made. For example, a two-door sliding wardrobe in back-painted white glass to fit a gap of 2 x 2m will cost you approx £465.

*'Textile flooring comes in tiles or planks and in a variety of hues and patterns'*

**Q** We've had a new kitchen fitted with neutral colours, concrete floors and plain wood surfaces and now we're looking for a set of chairs to go with the scheme. We've considered Eames-type designs, but we'd also love to see some alternatives. Please help!

**Joe and Rachel, London**

**A** If you want something stylish, but a bit off the beaten track, then I'd recommend the recycled plastic Green chair with the wood legs, designed by Mariscal for M114. It has a great brutalist craft aesthetic – perfect for the urban concrete lover! It costs £238 and is available in the UK via Coexistence ([coexistence.co.uk](http://coexistence.co.uk)).

**Q** I have a series of built-in plywood storage cupboards in my sitting room and I'm looking to add a curved

wall to blend in the space between them and the adjacent walls. What would be the best way of going about this?

**Alan, Harrogate**

**A** If you're thinking of creating a curved false wall, then the easiest way is to erect a timber stud frame as you would any partition wall and then use a bendy sheet material to clad the curve. Rather than using standard MDF or plywood, however, why not try

Flexiboard from V Cut ([vcut.co.uk](http://vcut.co.uk)), a flexible plasterboard that costs approx £33 per sheet from Builder Depot ([builderdepot.co.uk](http://builderdepot.co.uk)). It can be skimmed and painted to blend in with the existing walls.

**Q** I'm planning to convert my basement into a workroom, but I'm unsure of how to get some natural light down there as it will have no windows. Any suggestions?

**Susan, Nottingham**

**A** Apart from using lots of daylight bulbs, you have a couple of options. Firstly, you could install a pipe system, where the light from an outside lens is reflected down through a mirrored tube to a ceiling diffuser. See the Sun Tunnel from Velux ([velux.co.uk](http://velux.co.uk)) – a basic kit costs under £400, plus installation. Or secondly, consider a glass panel in the ceiling, so you can access the natural light from the room directly above the basement. Check out Sunsquare ([sunsquare.co.uk](http://sunsquare.co.uk)) for Horizon walk-on roof lights, which cost approx £1,600 per sq m panel, including installation.



## STYLE CLASSIC

Shaker *kitchen*

**Designer** Anonymous.

**Background** This timeless yet simple design was first produced by the 18th-century Quakers, who were also called 'Shakers' because of their animated form of worship. They shunned furniture with any embellishment in favour of humble, functional pieces that echoed their modest lifestyle.

Also known as 'Friends of the Light', the Quakers believed in bringing light where there was darkness – and their kitchens reflected this ambition. Pre-electricity kitchens were often sombre places, so Shaker furniture was made from pale woods such as maple and sometimes painted in bright colours. Quaker homes had to accommodate communal activities such as prayer and chairs would be hung on wooden pegs that ran around the room, making the floor space available for the congregation.

As the decades passed, the Victorians adapted the classic Shaker look, adding glass-fronted cabinets to show off the contents. By the end of the 19th century, artists from the Arts and Crafts movement, including its leading member William Morris, were also influenced by the Quakers' utilitarian ideals. Today, Shaker kitchens have gone back to their roots, with a revival of the unfitted style and wooden peg rails of the earliest designs.

**Details** DeVOL's Real Shaker Kitchen range offers authentic-looking, handmade painted kitchens, like this one pictured in Lead, from £8,000.





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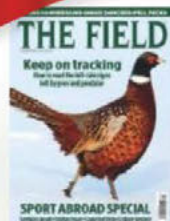
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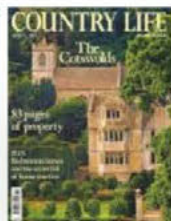
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**AXW4**



# All you want FOR CHRISTMAS...

Spice up your festive dinner with Donna Hay's delicious twists on traditional classics

Photography – William Meppem and Chris Court  
Styling – Steve Pearce

## Roasted pork loin with sour cherry stuffing

### Serves 6-8

- 3kg boneless pork loin, trimmed
- 40g sea salt flakes
- extra-virgin olive oil, for brushing
- FOR THE SOUR CHERRY STUFFING**
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 tablespoons thyme leaves
- 210g fresh sourdough breadcrumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 35g shelled unsalted pistachios, chopped
- 80ml (2 good tablespoons) sour cherry relish (see recipe overleaf)
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

- Score the pork skin at 1cm intervals. Rub with 2 tablespoons of the salt and refrigerate, uncovered, for 2-3 hours.
- While the pork is resting, make the sour cherry stuffing. Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the onion, garlic and thyme and cook for 5-6 minutes, or until lightly golden.
- Transfer the mixture to a bowl, add the breadcrumbs, egg, mustard, pistachios, cherry relish and seasoning and mix well to combine. Set aside.
- Preheat the oven to 220°C/gas mark 7. Brush the salt from the pork and pat dry with absorbent paper. Turn the pork, skin-side down, and spread with the stuffing. Roll to enclose and secure with kitchen string. Brush the skin with the oil and rub with the remaining salt.
- Place the pork on a rack in a baking dish lined with non-stick baking paper and roast for 25 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 200°C/gas mark 6 and roast for a further 30-40 minutes, or until cooked to your liking. Cover with foil and allow to rest for 15 minutes. Remove the string and slice to serve.

*TIP: you could also use store-bought cranberry sauce instead of the sour cherry relish.*





# Poached turkey breast with lemon and thyme gravy ↓

## **Serves 6-8**

- 1 *tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil*
- 50g *unsalted butter*
- *sea salt and freshly ground black pepper*
- 1 x 1.5kg *turkey breast fillet, skin on*
- 4 *shallots, peeled and halved*
- 750ml *chicken stock*
- 10 *sprigs lemon thyme*
- 1 *tablespoon finely shredded lemon zest*
- 1 *teaspoon black peppercorns*
- 50g *unsalted butter, extra*
- 35g *plain flour, sifted*

- Heat the oil and butter in a large heavy-based saucepan over a medium heat. Season the turkey breast and add to the pan, skin-side down, with the shallots. Cook the turkey for 5 minutes, or until golden, then turn and cook for a further 5 minutes, or until golden. Add the chicken stock, lemon thyme, lemon zest and peppercorns and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat to low and cook, covered, for 30 minutes, or until cooked through. Remove the turkey breast from the poaching liquid, cover with aluminium foil and set aside to keep warm. Strain the turkey stock carefully into a jug, discarding the solids.
- Melt the extra butter in a large saucepan over a high heat until bubbling. Add the flour and cook, stirring, for 2-3 minutes, or until golden. Slowly pour in the turkey stock, stirring until smooth. Cook, stirring continuously, for a further 2 minutes, or until thickened. Slice the turkey and serve with the gravy.



# Sour cherry relish ↑

## **Makes 500ml**

- 1 *tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil*
- 1 *small onion, finely chopped*
- 1 *tablespoon thyme leaves*
- 500g *frozen sour (Morello) cherries (available at Asda)*
- *rind of 1 orange*
- 60ml *orange-flavoured liqueur*
- 80ml *red-wine vinegar*
- 220g *caster sugar*
- *sea salt and freshly ground black pepper*

- Heat the oil in a medium saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion and thyme and cook for 1-2 minutes, or until lightly golden. Add the sour cherries, orange rind, orange liqueur, vinegar, sugar and seasoning and stir to combine. Bring to the boil and cook for 30-35 minutes, or until reduced and glossy. Allow to cool completely.

*TIP: the relish will keep for up to 2 weeks refrigerated in an airtight container – just bring it to room temperature before serving.*



## Cranberry and pancetta stuffing cups →

### Makes 12

- 12 slices (180g) round pancetta
- 350g fresh breadcrumbs
- 130g dried cranberries
- 2 eggs
- 120g unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons torn sage leaves
- ½ small bunch thyme, leaves picked
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

• Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 4. Lightly grease a 12 x 125ml-capacity cupcake tin, then place a pancetta slice in the base and round the sides of each mould.

• Place the breadcrumbs, cranberries, eggs, butter, sage, thyme, garlic and seasoning in a bowl and mix to combine. Spoon the bread mixture into the pancetta-lined cupcake tins and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden and crunchy.



## ← Crunchy roast potatoes

### Serves 6-8

- 2kg starchy potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1 head garlic, cloves separated, unpeeled
- 1 small bunch sage leaves
- 180ml extra-virgin olive oil
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

• Preheat the oven to 200°C/gas mark 6. Place the potatoes and garlic in a large saucepan of salted water over a high heat, cover and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to medium and cook for 8-10 minutes, or until just tender. Drain well and return to the saucepan. Cover and shake the pan to fluff the edges of the potatoes.

• Place the potatoes, garlic, sage, oil and seasoning on a baking tray lined with non-stick baking paper and toss to combine. Roast for 50-60 minutes, turning every 20 minutes, or until the potatoes are golden and crunchy.





## Raspberry and white chocolate trifle ↓

### Serves 6-8

- 20 small store-bought sponge fingers
- 125ml orange-flavoured liqueur
- 250g fresh raspberries, to serve
- FOR THE RASPBERRY JELLY**
- 2 tablespoons gelatine powder
- 1.5 litres cranberry juice
- 220g caster sugar
- 500g frozen raspberries
- FOR THE GANACHE**
- 180g white chocolate, finely chopped
- 250ml single cream
- FOR THE MASCARPONE CREAM**
- 140g mascarpone
- 80g icing sugar, sifted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
- 375ml single cream

- To make the jelly, place the gelatine and 125ml of the cranberry juice in a bowl and stir to combine. Set aside for 5 minutes, or until the gelatine has been absorbed. Place the remaining cranberry juice and the sugar in a saucepan over a medium heat and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil and cook for 1 minute. Remove from the heat, add the gelatine mixture and stir to combine. Set aside to cool for 20 minutes. Pour the jelly mixture into the base of a 4-litre-capacity glass dish and add the frozen berries. Refrigerate for 4-5 hours, or overnight, until set.
- To make the ganache, place the chocolate in a small saucepan over a low heat and stir frequently until melted and smooth. Remove from the heat and add 60ml of the cream in a thin, steady stream, stirring constantly until well combined. Pour the mixture into a bowl and refrigerate until just cold. Whisk the remaining cream until stiff peaks form, add the cooled chocolate mixture and fold through to combine.
- To assemble, spoon the ganache over the jelly and smooth with a palette knife. Dip the sponge fingers in the orange-flavoured liqueur and layer over the ganache. To make the mascarpone cream, place the mascarpone, sugar, vanilla paste and cream in a bowl and whisk until soft peaks form. Spoon over the sponge fingers and top with the fresh raspberries to serve.

## Shortbread and raspberry slice ↑

### Serves 6-8

- 250g cold unsalted butter, chopped
- 160g icing sugar, sifted
- 225g plain flour, sifted
- 75g rice flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 160g raspberry jam
- icing sugar, extra for dusting

- Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 4. Place the butter, icing sugar, plain flour, rice flour and vanilla extract in a food processor and blend until the dough just comes together. Divide the dough in half, cover one piece with clingfilm and place in the refrigerator. Roll out the remaining piece between two sheets of non-stick baking paper to 4mm thick. Refrigerate for 30 minutes, or until firm. Using different sized star-shaped pastry cutters, cut out stars from the rolled dough, reserving the leftover pieces. Place the stars on a baking tray lined with non-stick baking paper and refrigerate for 10-15 minutes, or until firm enough to handle.
- Combine the leftover dough with the remaining chilled dough and, using the back of a spoon, press it into the base of a lightly greased 20 x 30cm tin lined with non-stick baking paper. Spread the jam over the dough and top with the stars, overlapping them slightly. Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until lightly golden. Allow to cool completely in the tray and dust with the extra icing sugar to serve.





# Foodetc

Boozy bonbons, a punchy pork pie and a divine dessert – the party season sorted

EDITED BY JESSICA LATAPIE



## Cocktail hour

Fancy a G&T with a difference? Try new confectioner Smith & Sinclair's handmade alcoholic pastilles. Six divine flavours, including a whisky sour and a mixed berry daiquiri, make for the ultimate hic 'n' mix. **£8.95 for a box of six** ([notonthehighstreet.com](http://notonthehighstreet.com))

## RICH PICKINGS

Pimp your cheese and pineapple cubes with these golden stag canapé picks. A festive way to add a little pizzazz to your party table. **£8.50 for a pack of 12** ([talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk))

## ABSOLUT HEAVEN

Absolut's Andy Warhol Edition bottle is inspired by the artist's original Absolut painting and a portion of the proceeds supports The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. A prize exhibit for your drinks trolley. **£21.99** ([selfridges.com](http://selfridges.com))



## Perfect pearring

Where Heston hid an orange in his Christmas pudding for Waitrose, this pork pie conceals an *entire* pear! New Year's Eve is all about a darn good spread and with its select cuts of pork, crumbled Stilton and layer of pear chutney, it will make a delicious centrepiece. **Whole Baked Pear & Stilton Pork Pie, £10** ([marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com))



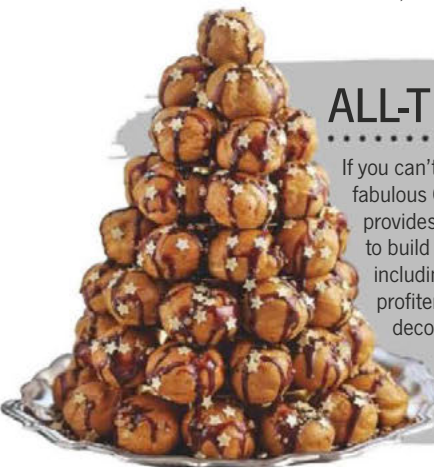
## LITTLE DIPPERS

Surprise your guests with savoury sweets.

Harrods' food hall now offers an innovative patisserie range, including 'globe' pots filled with pea purée and lobster, *left*, and cauliflower and salmon, *right*. **From £4.95** ([harrods.com](http://harrods.com))

## ALL-TIME HIGH

If you can't bake, cheat. Tesco Finest's fabulous Croquembouche Patisserie Kit provides all the ingredients you need to build your very own show-stopper, including a whopping 60 cream-filled profiteroles, sweet sauce and decorations to finish. And when your guests gasp, just smile – it's all your own work. Well, sort of... **£15** ([tesco.com](http://tesco.com))



## 3 of the BEST chutneys



Guts & Garlic Chutney, £7.50, Hoxton Street Monster Supplies ([harveynichols.com](http://harveynichols.com))



Hot Pear Chutney, £3.50, Jules & Sharpie ([julesandsharpie.co.uk](http://julesandsharpie.co.uk))



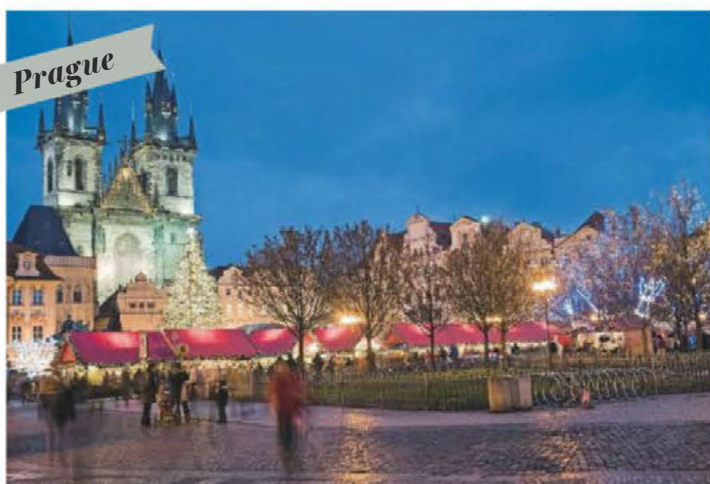
Sweet Pickled Cucumber, £3.25, The Dorset Blue Soup Company ([dorsetblue.moonfruit.com](http://dorsetblue.moonfruit.com))

**ALSO THIS MONTH...** If you're heading to London for some Christmas shopping, download CityHawk. This handy new app locates the capital's best restaurants in your immediate area so you can refuel in style. Check out [cityhawkapp.com](http://cityhawkapp.com)



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# Peak experience

When it comes to ski breaks, the Alps are still where it's at – and these luxe hotels are the summit of style

THIS PICTURE L'Apogée Courchevel's penthouse has its own hot tub. INSET PICTURE Return from the slopes to this Prestige Room

Words – Kate Worthington and Hannah Franklin

**T**he epicentre of European skiing, the Alps have long been the destination of choice for us Brits. Yes, they may be close to home, but sheer proximity wouldn't keep us going back year after year – nor would the fondue (much as we love it). These majestic mountains offer an endless variety of slopes for all levels – ski buffs, seasonaires, novices and children alike can all find runs to suit.

The Alps also boast the largest skiing area in the world solely connected by lifts and slopes – Les Trois Vallées in France. The snowfall and quality of slopes are undoubtedly important, but the allure doesn't end there – the entire range is famed for lively après-ski, world-class restaurants and top-notch spas, not forgetting beautiful scenery all year around, so it's no surprise that great hotels are part of the equation here.

The region's popularity is now greater than ever and, as if to prove the point, three new design-minded hotels have appeared on the scene – L'Apogée Courchevel in the aforementioned Trois Vallées and W Verbier and The Chedi Andermatt, both in Switzerland. Each has its own character, unique selling point and area of expertise, be it partying, spa treatments or slope access. There's no business like snow business...



## L'APOGÉE COURCHEVEL, *France*

**THE LOWDOWN** Contemporary chalet chic meets understated luxury.

**BEST FOR** Ski-in, ski-out access to the slopes with the hotel's private ski lift.

Located at the highest point of Courchevel's four villages (Courchevel 1850), L'Apogée Courchevel is the work of French designer-architects India Mahdavi and Joseph Dirand. The duo sum up the concept as 'authentic, but not nostalgic', so instead of ditsy gingham checks and antlers, there's oversized plaid carpet mixed with fine leather and touches of fur. Jewel accents such as malachite green and garnet red complement sleek wood in the bedrooms, while the bathrooms are lined in Fior de Bosco marble with underfloor heating. For drinking and dining, there's a champagne bar, styled like a private members' club, with cocooning, vintage-style tub chairs and marble fireplaces, and restaurant Le Comptoir L'Apogée, with floor-to-ceiling glass walls overlooking the slopes. Do check out the dedicated ham-ageing cellar and fresh fish counter – seriously impressive at 1,850 metres.

**BOOK IT** Double rooms from £705 half board ([lapogeecourchevel.com](http://lapogeecourchevel.com)).



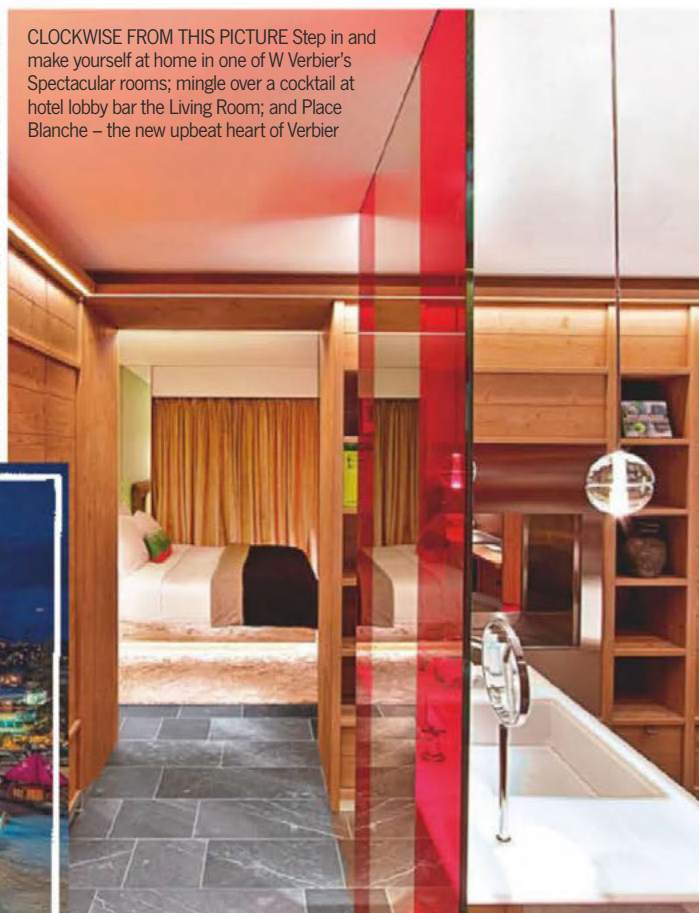
## W VERBIER, *Switzerland*

**THE LOWDOWN** A cutting-edge newcomer that's seriously shaking things up.  
**BEST FOR** Being at the centre of the hottest nightlife in town.

Known for fantastic off-piste and cross-country skiing as well as summer sports (William and Harry are regular visitors), it's telling that Verbier was the location chosen for the W group's debut ski hotel. Striking and contemporary, the interior is a cool contrast of Alpine and modern – think Perspex bubble chairs hung along timber balconies. The vibe is fun and sociable, particularly since the W has become the hub of the après-ski and nightlife scene in peak season – you can literally snowplough your way to the open-air Off Piste bar fresh from the slopes, then head down later to the hotel's subterranean club Carve. Two dining options from Spain's rock'n'roll Michelin-starred chef Sergi Arola break the Alpine mould, with Spanish flavours and the best tapas you're likely to taste outside Madrid. Ask Monica, W Verbier's resident 'insider' (or concierge), to arrange anything from paragliding to mountain-side yoga if you're feeling adventurous.

**BOOK IT** Double rooms from £195 ([wverbier.com](http://wverbier.com))\*.

CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE Step in and make yourself at home in one of W Verbier's Spectacular rooms; mingle over a cocktail at hotel lobby bar the Living Room; and Place Blanche – the new upbeat heart of Verbier







CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE The roaring open fire in The Chedi Andermatt's bar; wall-to-wall luxury with a view to die for; and the serene, 35-metre indoor pool

## THE CHEDI ANDERMATT, *Switzerland*

**THE LOWDOWN** A fine-tuned balance of Asian flavours and Alpine opulence.  
**BEST FOR** Pampering and relaxation at a world-class spa.

Borrowing design influences from its sister properties across Southeast Asia and the Middle East, The Chedi Andermatt brings Zen to the heart of the Swiss Alps. Walk into the lobby and you're greeted with open fires and low lounge seating, exuding the sort of cosy ambience that skiing holidays were made for. An Asian-inspired concept the hotel has used to great effect is the seamless blend between interior and exterior spaces – most spectacularly in the pool area, with its glass walls and ceiling – that let the Alpine surroundings flood in. Touches such as wood floorboards and poolside sofas keep you feeling toasty even in a bathing suit. But the hotel's speciality is undoubtedly its spa – 2,400 sq m of hot and cold baths, bio Finnish saunas, a scented-salt steam bath and a hammam. The holistic treatments use natural products from SpaRitual, ila, REN and Alpienne to ease away any post-skiing aching muscles.

**BOOK IT** Double rooms from £450 ([ghmhotels.com/en/andermatt](http://ghmhotels.com/en/andermatt))\*.

\*For more information on Switzerland, visit [myswitzerland.com](http://myswitzerland.com). SWISS offers up to 19 daily flights from London Heathrow, London City, Birmingham and Manchester to Zurich. Fares start at £147\*\* return, including all airport taxes, one piece of luggage and free ski carriage. For reservations, visit [swiss.com](http://swiss.com). \*\*\*Terms and conditions apply.



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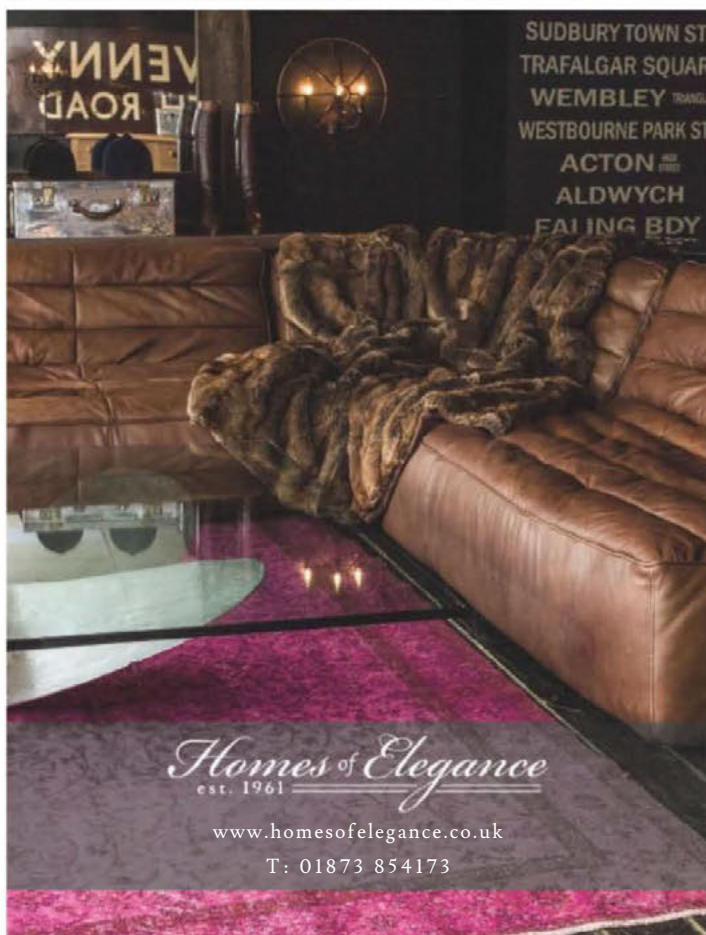
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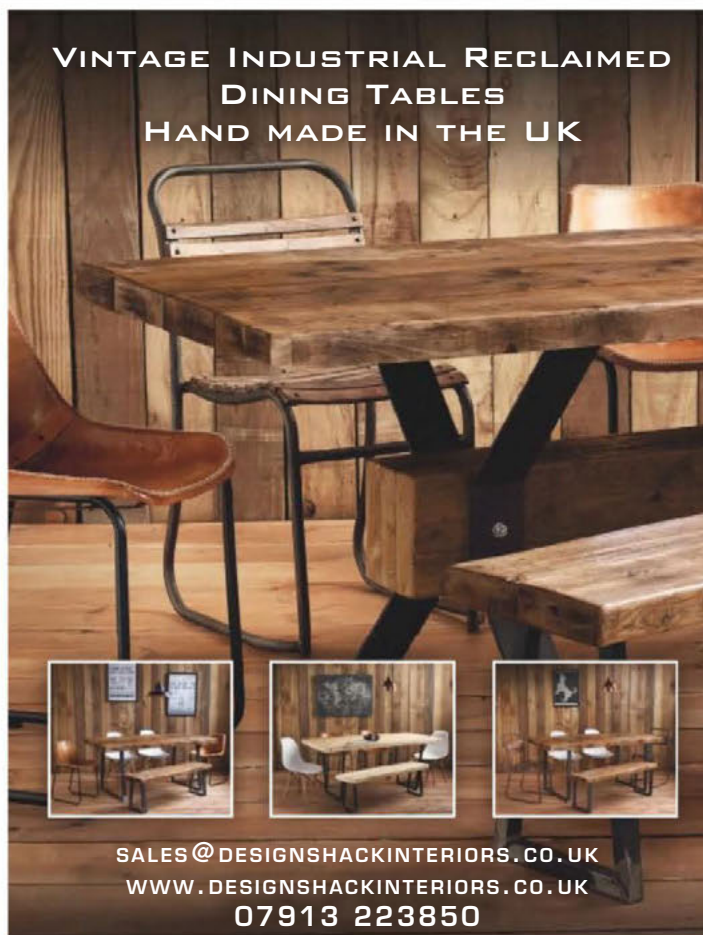
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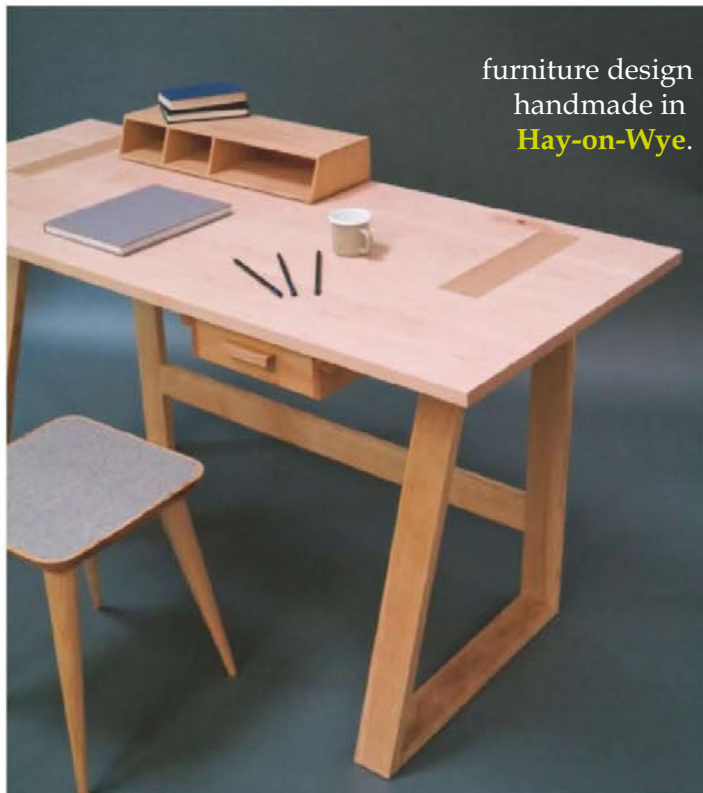


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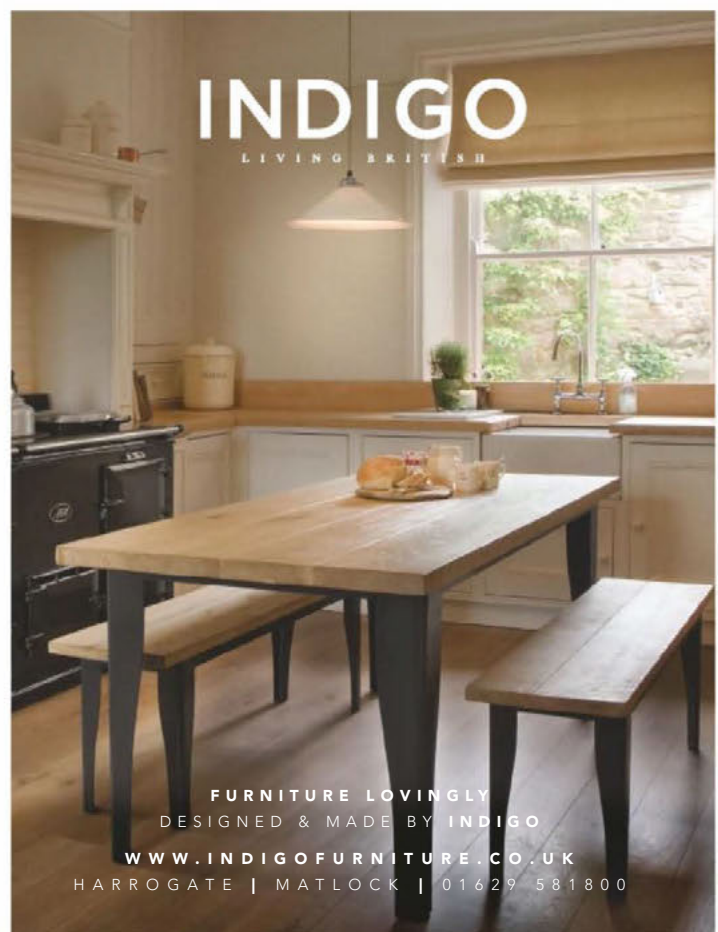
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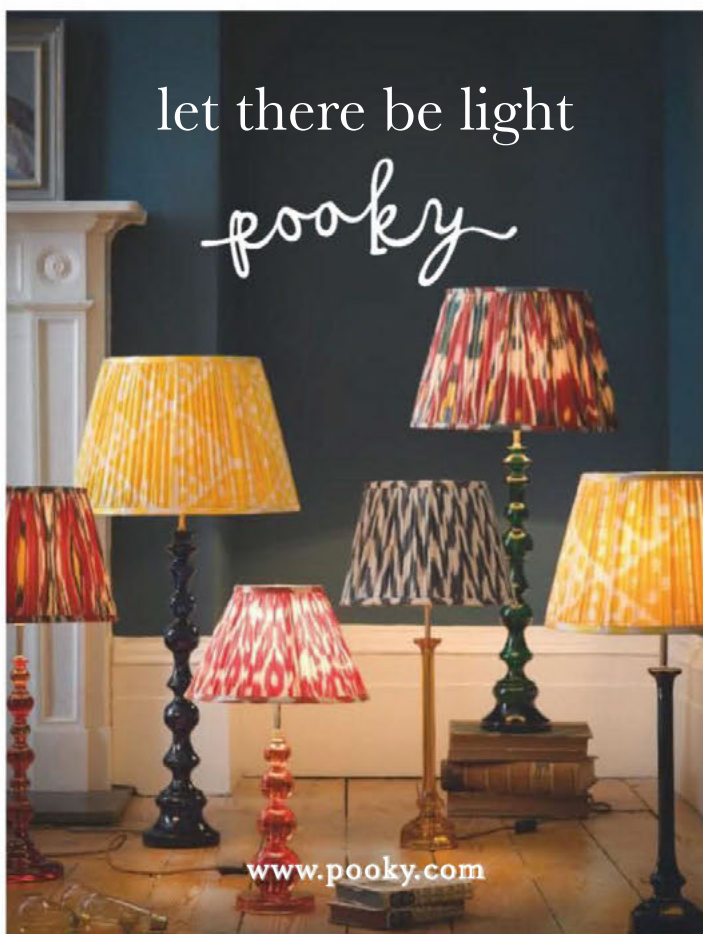
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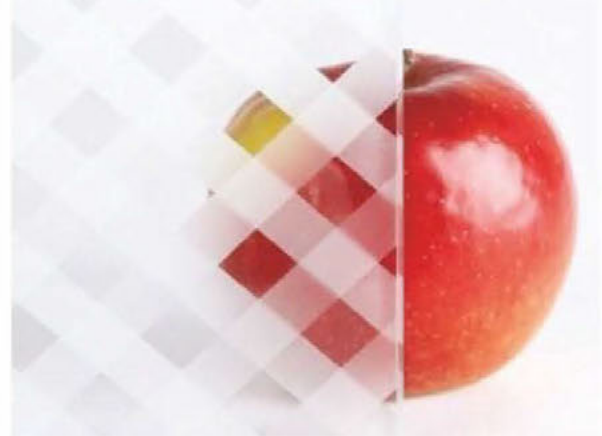
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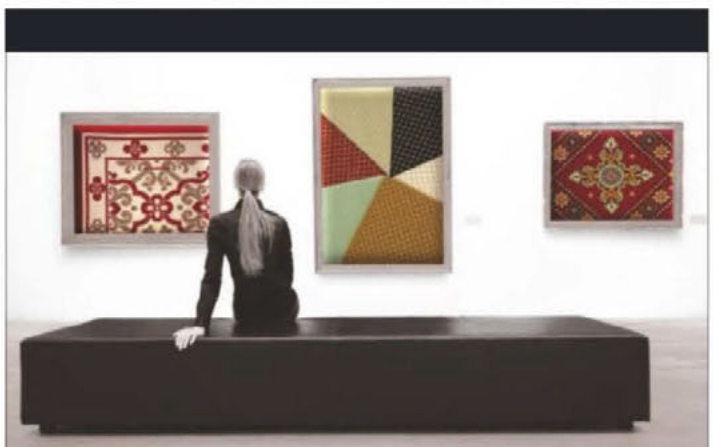
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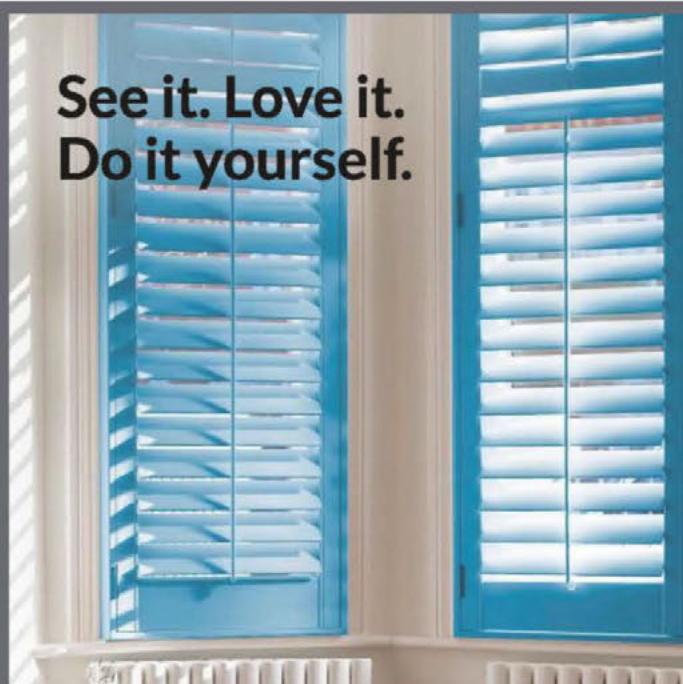
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# #PlanetLivingetc

Take a peek at what team @Livingetc got up to while preparing this issue

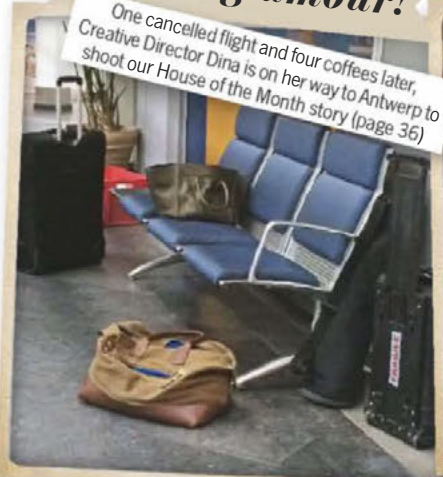
**red hot**

We were wowed by bold brights @TheConranShop's Christmas press show



**oh, the glamour!**

One cancelled flight and four coffees later, Creative Director Dina is on her way to Antwerp to shoot our House of the Month story (page 36)



Editor Suzanne impresses design maestro Philippe Starck with her chair-making skills at the launch of @TOG\_Official @Heals\_Furniture



Feline festive: @houseoffraser's scheme inspired this month's Agenda Trend (page 25)

**nice ride**

Fashion legend Barbara Hulanicki revs up the style at the launch of her new wallpaper collection with @GrahamandBrown



Baubles galore @Selfridges' Christmas press show – pastels are a strong trend this year

Style Editor Hannah samples the delights of the cheese room @ChediAndermatt (page 139)



A winter wonderland @JoMaloneLondon's launch of its #FrostedFantasy collection



**no more hills!**

News and Travel Editor Kate hits the Alpine slopes @WVerbier (page 139)



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